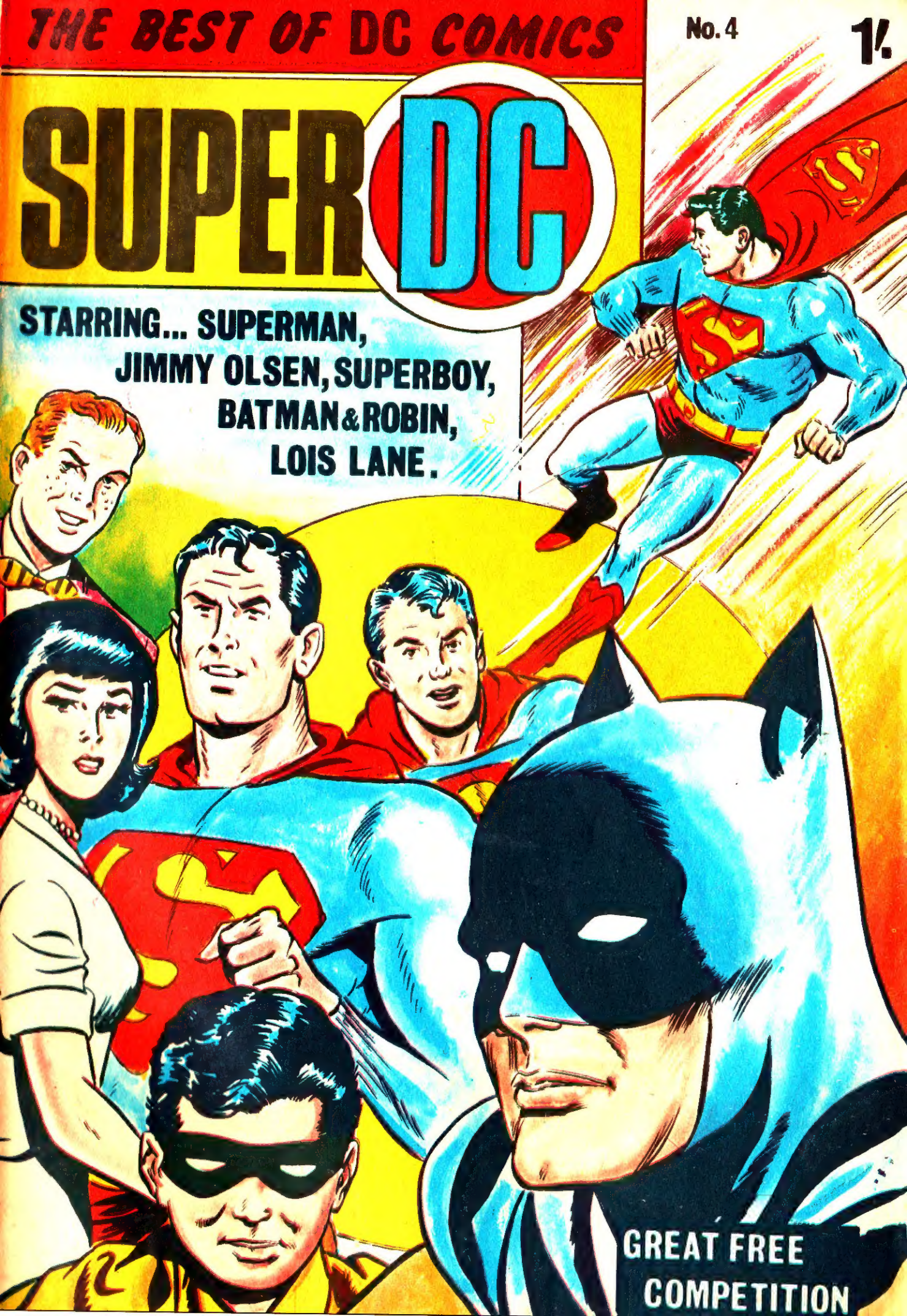
THE BEST OF DC COMICS

No. 4

1/-

SUPER DC

STARRING... SUPERMAN, JIMMY OLSEN, SUPERBOY, BATMAN & ROBIN, LOIS LANE.



GREAT FREE COMPETITION

DIRECT CURRENTS

WHO COLLECTS COVERS?

OUR colleagues on American DC comics have been running a fascinating contest—for collectors of magazine covers. They found that many fans own specialised collections of covers. One collects covers depicting sporting events, another saves those featuring prehistoric animals like dinosaurs.

So they offered prizes for collections, stipulating that such collections must consist of at least 25 covers and must be out of the ordinary. (They had received so many letters from readers collecting covers showing aliens, monsters, weapons and fights that they eliminated these categories).

Biggest collection that came to light was that of Raejean Filey of Decatur, Illinois, who had more than 200 DC mags. featuring various kinds of rays on the covers.

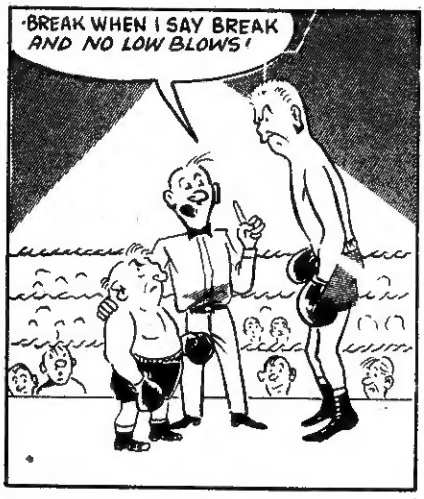
James Knight of Hymera, Indiana, had 31 mags. showing DC heroes acting like villains; Dennis Daniel of Cincinatti, Ohio, had 25 showing various heroes' insignias; Samuel Edelman of Brooklyn, New York, collected covers showing boys. Steven Carlberg of Durant, Oklahoma, preferred covers depicting Kryptonians or their descendants (excluding Superman, Supergirl, Krypto and Beppo, the Super Monkey).

Masked villains were the theme of Larry Rutledge's collection, while Chris Jurich of Burlinghame, California, had 28 covers showing people in hats, helmets, cowls and other forms of headgear. These coverings would have come in handy for the characters in the collection of Michael Maxwell of Bellvue, Kentucky—they were all bald. (He must be a Luthor fan!)

Gary Skinner of Columbus, Ohio, went in for covers featuring insects, giant ones, speaking ones, robot ones and humans in insect costumes, while Geoffrey Bond of Barrie, Ontario, Canada, collected pictures of characters in glasses or goggles. (A Clark Kent fan?)

Allen Buresz of Lemont, Illinois, had a time theme. His 27 covers included heroes travelling through time and meeting characters from other eras. Charles Collins of Buchanan, Michigan collected covers featuring gems, money and precious metals.

What a variety of different ideas! It has set us wondering about the cover collections of British readers. How many of *you* collect covers linked to a theme? We'd like to know. Please write and tell us.



STAR PIC: 4

Marty Feldman, the man with the homeliest face on television, started work as an office boy in London, but left to lead a jazz group as a trumpeter. Then he became assistant in an Indian Fakir act, shooting arrows into the stomach of the Redskin (who was actually English). His own comedy act followed but he gave up the stage to write scripts (with Barry Took) for shows such as *Round the Horne*.

He returned to performing in television's *At Last the 1948 Show*, and his *Marty* series won him the title Light Entertainment Personality of the Year.

SUPERMAN'S WHO'S WHO

PRESENTING the first part of a directory of members of the Legion of Super Heroes. Keep it for reference. There will be further entries in our next issue.

PHANTOM GIRL (Tinya Wazzo) came from the planet BGZTL, which occupies the same space as Earth, but in another dimension. She can dematerialize at will and pass through solid objects.

DUO DAMSEL (Luornu Durgo) was known as TRIPLICATE GIRL until one of her three bodies was killed by the villainous thinking machine, COMPUTO. She comes from the planet Cargg, where a triple sun gives all natives the power to split into three bodies. Duo Damsel can still become *two* girls. So a double date with her is really double!

BRAINIAC 5 (Querl Dox) of the planet Colu is a descendant of VRIL DOX, adopted son of the original BRAINIAC, Superman's foe. Vril found a way to raise his brain to the 12th level, making it the equal of BRAINIAC'S computer mind; and a genetic change enabled him to pass this super-mind on to his descendants.

LIGHTNING LAD (Garth Ranzz) gained the power to generate lightning bolts when he was attacked by lightning monsters on the planet Korbal and their blasts electrified his body. He is from a different world, Winath.

BOUNCING BOY (Chuck Taine) of Earth, gained the power of super-bouncing when he drank a super-plastic fluid which he mistook for soda-pop.

INVISIBLE KID (Lyle Norg), also of Earth, is a young genius who invented a serum which enables him to become invisible. He uses his power to spy on outlaws.

SHRINKING VIOLET (Salu Digby) came from the planet Imsk, where everyone can shrink to tiny size.

COSMIC BOY (Rokk Krinn) came from the planet Braal, where the people evolved magnetic powers to battle the metal monsters of that world. He prevented a rocket-car collision by magnetically repelling the two craft.

CHAMELEON BOY (Reep Daggle) came from the planet Durla, where everyone can assume any shape he chooses.

SATURN GIRL (Imra Ardeen) comes from Saturn where everyone has ESP (Extra Sensory Perception) powers. She can will monsters to retreat.

COLOSSAL BOY (Gim Allon) of Earth gained the power of super-growth from a strange meteor.

SUPERMAN

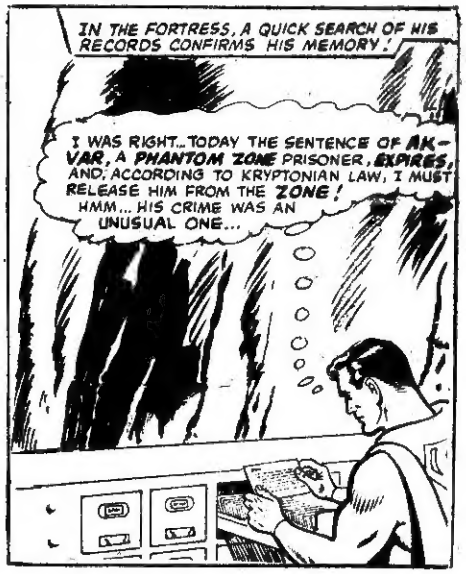
REMEMBER WHAT WE TAUGHT YOU, AK-VAR, AND YOU CAN BE EARTH'S GREATEST VILLAIN!

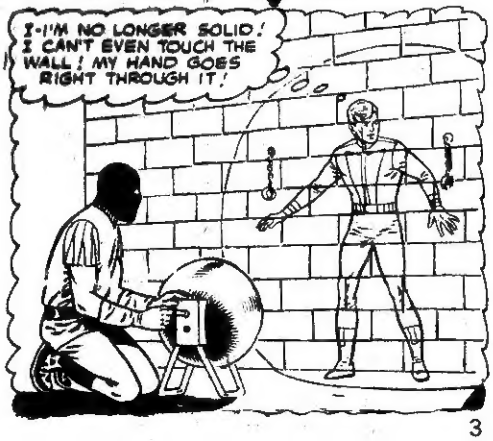
MY 30-YEAR SENTENCE IS UP, SUPERMAN! YOU MUST RELEASE ME FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE!

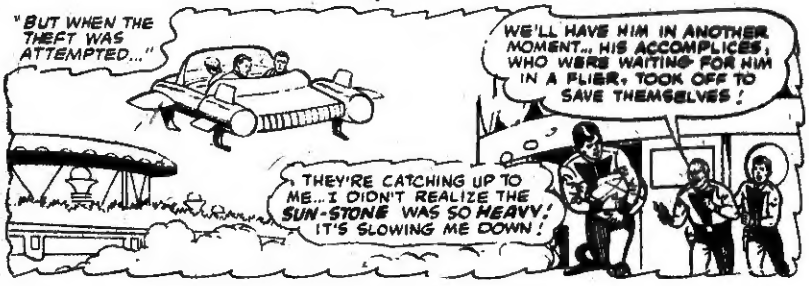
YES, AK-VAR'S SENTENCE RUNS OUT TODAY! I HAVE TO FREE HIM! BUT WILL I BE RELEASING A REFORMED MAN, OR A SUPER-CRIMINAL?

LONG AGO, ON SUPERMAN'S HOME PLANET, KRYPTON, CRIMINALS WERE PUNISHED BY BEING PROJECTED INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE OF THESE PHANTOM CONVICTS HAS SERVED OUT HIS SENTENCE AND SUPERMAN, OBEYING THE LAWS OF HIS PERISHED WORLD, MUST FREE HIM ON EARTH, WHERE HE'LL HAVE ALL THE MAN OF STEEL'S POWERS? FOR THE ANSWER, READ THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF...

"The MAN FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE!"







"SOON, HE FOUND HIMSELF IN COMPANY WITH SOME OF THE GREATEST VILLAINS OF KRYPTON!"
WELCOME, AK-VAR! WE SAW YOUR TRIAL FROM THE ZONE! I'M JAX-UR, SENT HERE FOR DESTROYING AN INHABITED MOON!
I'M GENERAL ZOD! I TRIED TO CONQUER KRYPTON WITH AN ANDROID ARMY!
I, KRU-EL, DEVELOPED AN ARSENAL OF FORBIDDEN WEAPONS!
I CAN PICK UP THEIR THOUGHTS TELEPATHICALLY. THEY'RE ACTUALLY PROUD OF THEIR DREADFUL CRIMES! THEY WERE SENT HERE BECAUSE KRYPTON HAS NO DEATH PENALTY!
AS THE MAN OF STEEL PREPARES TO FREE THE KRYPTONIAN CONVICT...
AK-VAR'S 30-YEAR SENTENCE EXPIRES TODAY, SO IT IS MY DUTY TO FREE HIM! I HOPE HE'S LEARNED HIS LESSON!
AS SUPERMAN OPERATES THE PROJECTOR WHICH OPENS A TEMPORARY RIFT IN THE PHANTOM ZONE.
I HAVE TO RELEASE AK-VAR WITHOUT LETTING ANY OF THE OTHER PRISONERS OUT...
AFTER 30 YEARS IN THE PHANTOM ZONE, WHERE PRISONERS DO NOT AGE, THE YOUNG MAN FROM KRYPTON STANDS FREE!
I'M SOLID AGAIN... AND HERE ON EARTH, I HAVE SUPER-POWERS! I'LL BE ANOTHER SUPERMAN!
NO... KRYPTONIAN LAW DECREES THAT A PRISONER RELEASED FROM THE ZONE MUST RETURN TO HIS NATIVE CITY! YOU'RE FROM KANDOR, WHICH STILL EXISTS IN TINY SIZE IN A BOTTLE HERE!
YES... BRAINIAC DID THAT TO KANDOR WITH HIS SHRINKING DEVICE! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME RETURN THERE... I'M AS MIGHTY AS YOU ARE!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT RESIST... SO I PREPARED THIS RAY-CONCENTRATOR! INSIDE IT IS GREEN KRYPTONITE... I CAN TURN ITS RAYS ON YOU, WHILE ITS LEAD SHIELDING PROTECTS ME!
ALL RIGHT... I'LL GO TO KANDOR! BUT FIRST, GIVE ME TWENTY MINUTES OF GRACE TO SEE EARTH AND ITS WONDERS! I SWEAR, BY THE SACRED KRYPTONIAN VOW THAT I'LL RETURN!
HMM... NO ONE HAS EVER BROKEN THAT VOW, WHICH CAN BE TAKEN ONLY ONCE IN A LIFETIME! I AGREE!
AND LATER, TRUE TO HIS OATH...
IT WAS WONDERFUL... FLYING AROUND EARTH AT SUPER-SPEED!
NOW WE MUST MAKE OURSELVES SMALL ENOUGH TO ENTER KANDOR!
AFTER THE SHRINKING RAY REDUCES SUPERMAN AND AK-VAR, THEY ENTER THE BOTTLE THAT CONTAINS THE LAST CITY OF KRYPTON!
WE MUST LAND CAREFULLY. IN KANDOR'S ENVIRONMENT, WE HAVE NO SUPER-POWERS!
BUT YOU'LL RETURN TO EARTH WHILE I'LL REMAIN HERE! I WONDER IF ANYONE WILL REMEMBER ME?
THAT QUESTION IS SOON ANSWERED WHEN THEY REACH KANDOR!
WHY DID HE COME BACK HERE? KANDOR HAS NO WELCOME FOR CRIMINALS OF HIS KIND!
AK-VAR HAS PAID THE PENALTY FOR HIS CRIME, AND IS AGAIN A CITIZEN OF KANDOR!
IT'S NO USE... THEY WOULDN'T EVEN SHAKE MY HAND! THEY'LL NEVER ACCEPT ME!
YOU MUST WIN THEIR ACCEPTANCE BY PROVING YOU'VE REFORMED. YOU MUST GO TO COLLEGE, LEARN A PROFESSION!
I'LL CHECK ON HIM BY MONITOR FROM TIME TO TIME!

BUT AFTER SUPERMAN HAS LEFT, THERE ARE A FEW WHO DO WELCOME THE MAN FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE!

IT'S OUR OLD PAL, AK-VAR! WE'RE OLDER THAN HE IS NOW... BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE HIM!

VAS-QUOR! AND BRENN-BIR AND KYL-IBO! WELL, I'M GLAD SOMEONE HERE DOESN'T SHUN ME!

AT THE TRIAL, YOU DIDN'T REVEAL THAT WE WERE YOUR ACCOMPLICES IN STEALING THE SUN-STONE AS A PRANK... WE'LL NEVER FORGET THAT!

I'LL SEE YOU LATER... I WANT TO LOOK UP SOME MORE OLD FRIENDS!

BUT THE OTHER "OLD FRIENDS" ARE NOT SO PLEASANT!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE SIRMA SEN, THE GIRL I USED TO DATE? BUT I FORGOT... YOU'RE 30 YEARS OLDER THAN I AM NOW!

YES... CONVICTS DON'T AGE IN THE PHANTOM ZONE! AND PLEASE DON'T BOTHER ME AGAIN! I'M MARRIED NOW, WITH TWO GROWN CHILDREN!

WALKING IN A PARK, AK-VAR GETS A SHOCK!

SUPERMAN! THEN YOU STAYED ON IN KANDOR? WHY?

I'M NOT SUPERMAN, ONLY HIS LOOK-ALIKE! I'M VAN-ZEE, SCIENTIST, AND THIS IS MY NIECE, THARA!

YOU'RE AK-VAR, THE MAN JUST RELEASED FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE, AREN'T YOU?

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU'LL TURN AWAY FROM ME, TOO...

OH, NO... I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT LIFE ON KRYPTON WAS LIKE; BEFORE IT BLEW UP, I'VE READ BOOKS ABOUT IT, BUT YOU ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED IT...

THARA IS INTENSELY CURIOUS ABOUT OUR HOME WORLD! I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, BUT YOU CAN TELL HER ALL ABOUT IT!

IN THE PARK, AK-VAR SPENDS HOURS TELLING THE EAGER GIRL WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE YOUNG ON KRYPTON!

WE HAD PARTIES AND DANCES AND AERIAL SPORTS LIKE "SKY-PLANING"...

SUDDENLY, THEY'RE RECALLED TO THE PRESENT BY A SENSATIONAL SURPRISE!

LOOK... A MAN FLYING AT SUPER-SPEED! BUT HOW CAN HE HAVE SUPER-POWERS... WHICH EVEN SUPERMAN DOESN'T POSSESS HERE IN KANDOR?

WHY... IT'S BRENN-BIR, A FRIEND OF MINE IN THE OLD DAYS! I WAS JUST TALKING TO HIM!

WITHIN MINUTES, KANDOR IS STAGGERED BY A SECOND SENSATIONAL DISPLAY OF SUPER-ABILITIES!

LOOK... ANOTHER KANDORIAN HAS SUPER-POWERS!

THAT'S RIGHT, VAS-QUOR! USE YOUR SUPER-STRENGTH TO LIFT UP THE MUSEUM... NOW WE'LL GET THAT SUN-STONE WE WERE AFTER YEARS AGO AND EVERYTHING ELSE WE WANT!

AND THE THIRD MEMBER OF THE EVIL TRIO GOES INTO ACTION!

COME ON IN, KYL-IBO! AND HURRY! BRENN-BIR IS WAITING OUTSIDE!

HA, HA... THE GUARDS' DEADLY RAY-GUNS ARE HARMLESS TO ME, NOW THAT I'M INVULNERABLE! I'LL GET THE SUN-STONE AND ALL THE OTHER RARE JEWELS!

THE SHOCKED PEOPLE OF KANDOR SEE THE THREE SUPER-THIEVES DEPART WITH THEIR LOOT!

LOOK OUT... THEY ALL HAVE SUPER-POWERS! WE CAN'T STOP THEM!

I HEARD ONE SAY THAT THEY'D TRIED TO STEAL THE SUN-STONE YEARS AGO! THEY MUST BE THE ACCOMPLICES AK-VAR WOULDN'T NAME!

AK-VAR HAS SOMEHOW GIVEN HIS OLD CRONIES SUPER-POWERS! HE MUST HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET FROM A PHANTOM ZONE CRIMINAL. NOW THEY'LL LOOT ALL KANDOR!
FIND AK-VAR ...WE'LL BRING HIM TO JUSTICE!
THAT CROWD IS WILD WITH RAGE AND BLAMING YOU... COME... I'LL HIDE YOU IN MY UNCLE'S HOUSE!

BUT EVEN AS AK-VAR AND THARA HEAD FOR THE SANCTUARY OF VAN-ZEE'S HOME, A HASTILY ORGANIZED POSSE SETS OUT IN PURSUIT!
OUR TELEPATHIC HOUNDS ARE ON AK-VAR'S TRAIL!
BY PLAYING BACK HIS BRAIN-WAVE TAPES FROM THE POLICE RECORDS, WE GOT THE HOUNDS "TUNED IN" ON HIS THOUGHT PATTERN!
AIE...OOO!

AND AS THE FUGITIVE NEARS HIS DESTINATION...
MY YEARS IN THE PHANTOM ZONE, WHEN WE COMMUNICATED VIA TELEPATHY, HAVE INCREASED MY MENTAL POWERS. I CAN TELL SOMEONE IS PROBING MY MIND!
TELEPATHIC HOUNDS! I THOUGHT I HEARD A BAYING IN THE DISTANCE! QUICK--GET AWAY AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

MUSTN'T THINK OF MY DESTINATION, OR THE HOUNDS CAN TRAIL ME! I'LL CONCENTRATE ON KRYPTON'S LEGENDARY HEROES... ZIM-RA, THE ARCHER... VAL-KON, THE WINGED MAN... DRU-MAR, THE MONSTER-SLAYER...

SHORTLY, AS THE POSSE APPEARS...
STRANGE... THE HOUNDS ONLY BROUGHT US THIS FAR. THEY SEEM CONFUSED, AS IF THEY'D LOST THE TRAIL!
DID YOU SEE WHICH WAY AK-VAR WENT?
WHY--AH--NO!

FOR A WHILE, THE POSSE SEARCHES VAINLY. THEN, SUDDENLY...
LOOK! THE HOUNDS ARE STRAINING AT THEIR LEASHES AGAIN! THEY'VE PICKED UP AK-VAR'S THOUGHTS!
OH, NO! HE MUST HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO KEEP FROM THINKING WHERE HE IS!

THE HOUNDS LEAD THE POSSE--AND THARA -- STRAIGHT TO AK-VAR'S HIDEOUT... A DESERTED CABIN!
THERE HE IS! ARREST HIM!
BUT HOW CAN WE TAKE HIM PRISONER IF HE HAS SUPER-POWERS?

SO YOU THINK I HAVE SUPER-POWERS --AND GAVE THEM TO MY FRIENDS, EH? ALL RIGHT--I'LL DEMONSTRATE MY POWERS FOR YOU!

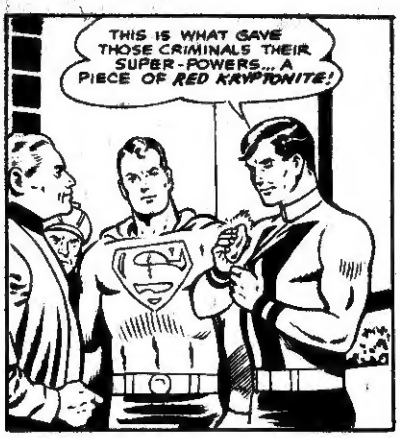
SEE--UUUHHH!
OH! HE'S HURT HIMSELF!

HIS HAND'S BLEEDING... AND THE BOULDER WASN'T EVEN SCRATCHED! WHY, HE'S AN ORDINARY MAN, LIKE US! HE HAS NO SUPER-POWERS, AFTER ALL!
OH, YOUR POOR HAND!

I'LL USE MY HANDKERCHIEF TO BANDAGE YOUR KNUCKLES!
THANKS! THARA, I'M GLAD I COULD DISPROVE THEIR SUSPICIONS--EVEN IF IT DID CAUSE ME PAIN! NOW LET'S GO TO YOUR UNCLE'S HOME!

BUT LATER THAT DAY, AT KANDORIAN POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS...
MY NAME IS GAN-LAR! I MUST SHOW YOU SOMETHING I FOUND WHILE HUNTING! IT'S IMPORTANT!
VERY WELL! SOME OF US WILL GO WITH YOU!
THE HUNTER LEADS THE OFFICERS TO THE MT. DRAL CABIN...
SEE? THIS LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY ROCK, DOESN'T IT? BUT TRY TO KNOCK OFF A CHIP WITH YOUR STUN-GUN BUTT!
ALL RIGHT!
HUH? I HIT IT AS HARD AS I COULD, BUT WITH NO EFFECT!
I RECOGNIZE IT AS PELLINITE, A PLASTOID SUBSTANCE WHICH CAN ABSORB TREMENDOUS SHOCKS WITHOUT HARM!
AND EXAMINE THESE RED DROPS...
HMM... MY SPECTRO-GLASSES REVEAL THEY'RE NOT BLOOD, BUT RED DYE!
NO WONDER THIS ROCK DIDN'T SPLIT WHEN AK-VAR HIT IT--IT ABSORBED THE SHOCK, AND THE "BLOOD" HE SHED WAS DYE! HE DELIBERATELY LED THE POSSE HERE IN ORDER TO FOOL THEM! QUICK--FIND HIM! AND BE CAREFUL--HE IS INVULNERABLE!
I'LL SEE THE PEOPLE OF KANDOR LEARN ABOUT THIS!
BUT SOON AFTER THE POLICE LEAVE THE CABIN, ANOTHER FIGURE STEALTHILY APPROACHES... SUPERMAN OF EARTH!
I SECRETLY RETURNED TO KANDOR IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE THE EVENTS I SAW ON MY KANDOR-MONITOR! I HAVE A HUNCH ABOUT THAT FAKE BOULDER!
THE BLOW FALLS, AND THE NOW-VULNERABLE SUPERMAN CRASHES TO THE GROUND UNCONSCIOUS!
INSIDE THE CABIN A STUN-GUN BUTT DESCENDS AS...
JUST AS I THOUGHT, HERE'S THE REAL STONE, HIDDEN BEHIND A CHAIR.. IT HAS A GENUINE BLOOD STAIN! ONLY SOMEONE WITH SUPER-STRENGTH COULD HAVE CARRIED IT IN HERE... WHICH MEANS AK-VAR IS BEING FRAMED BY HIS PALS!
THAT TAKES CARE OF SUPERMAN! I'LL TIE HIM UP!
IT'S A GOOD THING I SPOTTED HIS PARACHUTE AS HE DESCENDED FROM THE NECK OF THE BOTTLE!
MOMENTS LATER...
I'LL DRIVE HIM TO KANDOR IN OUR CAR, WHICH WE PARKED OUT OF SIGHT! WE HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN STORE FOR OUR SLEEPING CHUM!
I HAVE TO GET THE EFFIGIES WE'LL USE TONIGHT! DON'T FORGET YOUR DISGUISE, KYL-IBO!
IT IS DARK BY THE TIME THE DISGUISED VILLAIN REACHES KANDOR'S PUBLIC SQUARE...
THERE'S VAS-QUOR, IN HIS "GAN-LAR" DISGUISE TALKING TO THE CROWD! SUPERMAN IS STILL OUT COLD IN THE BACK OF THE CAR!
THEN IT'S AGREED?
WE'LL CONDUCT A QUELLORAN-- THE TRADITIONAL MOCK TRIAL OF KRYPTON! PLAY THE CONTROL KEYS THAT WILL ACTIVATE THE EFFIGIES INSIDE THE TRUCK!
AS THE DISGUISED BRENN-BIR OPERATES THE CONTROLS, WEIRD, ROBOT EFFIGIES EMERGE FROM THE TRUCK!
LOOK! MECHANICAL EFFIGIES OF AK-VAR, SUPERMAN, AND OTHERS!
YOU'D ALMOST THINK THEY WERE REAL IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE ENERGY-TUBES AROUND THEIR BODIES!

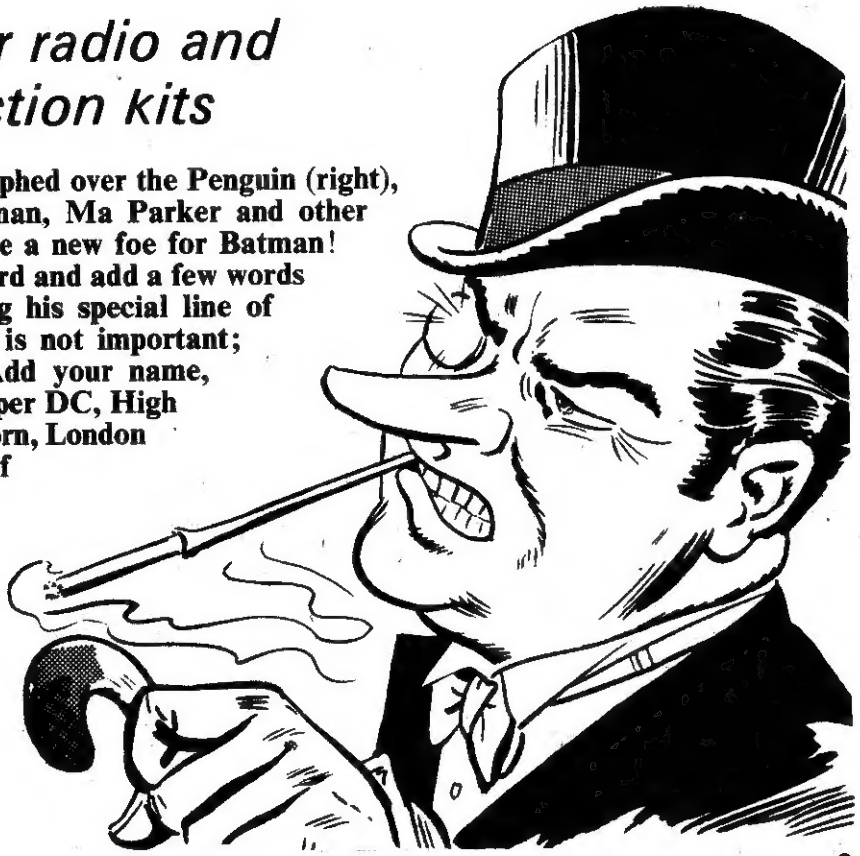
AS THE MOCK TRIAL BEGINS...
THE PROSECUTION WILL PROVE THAT AK-VAR USED SECRETS LEARNED WHILE HE WAS IN THE PHANTOM ZONE TO GIVE SUPER-POWERS TO HIMSELF AND HIS ACCOMPLICES!
THE "WITNESSES" ARE EXAMINED...
YES, I WAS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO RELEASE THAT VILLAIN FROM THE ZONE!
HE TRIED TO CONVINCE ME HE WAS INNOCENT!
... AND THAT'S HOW HE FOOLED THE POSSE!
FINALLY...
YOU ARE THE JURY, FRIENDS! WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?
GUILTY!
RETURN HIM TO THE PHANTOM ZONE... FOREVER!
I REMOVED THE PROJECTOR FROM THE VAULT SO WE COULD USE IT IN THE QUELLORAN CEREMONY!
AH! HAB-DIS, THE OFFICIAL EXECUTIONER OF KANDOR AND CUSTODIAN OF THE PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR!
BUT MEANWHILE, IN THE NEARBY GLOOM...
I'M GLAD SUPERMAN'S STILL OUT! I'LL USE SOME MAKE-UP ON HIS FACE. THEN, WITH THE AK-VAR EFFIGY'S CLOTHES AND ENERGY TUBES ON HIM, SUPERMAN WILL PASS FOR AK-VAR'S ELECTRONIC FIGURE! HE'LL BE PROJECTED INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE!
AND SO, WHEN THE MOCK COURT'S SENTENCE IS CARRIED OUT...
THERE GOES THE EFFIGY OF AK-VAR INTO THE ZONE! SO IT WILL BE WITH THE REAL CRIMINAL, WHEN WE CAPTURE HIM!
SUPERMAN WILL WAKE UP IN THAT TWILIGHT WORLD! HE'S OUT OF OUR HAIR FOREVER!
SUDDENLY, A FIGURE DASHES UP FROM THE CROWD, AND...
LOOK, PEOPLE OF KANDOR. YOUR "FRIEND", GAN-LAR, IS REALLY YAS-QUOR, THE CRIMINAL!
AK-VAR! YOU DARE TO SHOW YOUR FACE HERE? I'LL...
THEN, AMAZINGLY...
POW! UUUUUUhhh!
I'LL FLY OVER, AND... WH...??
THUD!
YOU LOOK TIRED! TRY MY PRIVATE SLEEPING MEDICINE! ONE SLUG SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
SUPERMAN'S EFFIGY HAS GONE BERSERK! BUT IT CAN'T HURT ME! I'LL STOP IT WITH THIS STUN-GUN!
THEN...
STOP, KYL-IBO! YOU WILL GIVE YOURSELF UP TO THE LAW!
I WILL... GIVE MYSELF ... UP!
AS THE POLICE ARRIVE TO TAKE THE CRIMINALS INTO CUSTODY...
YOU SEE, I'M THE REAL SUPERMAN. I DISCOVERED PROOF THAT AK-VAR HAD BEEN FRAMED, BUT TWO OF THOSE SUPER-CROOKS AMBUSHED ME!
I WAS HIDING NEARBY AND SAW THEM LEAD HIM INTO A CAR, SO I HITCHED A RIDE ON THE BACK OF IT!
"WHEN THE CAR STOPPED, I REVIVED SUPERMAN, THEN WE SLIPPED INTO THE TRUCK WHERE THE EFFIGIES WERE KEPT..."
I OVERHEARD KYL-IBO'S PLAN TO DRESS ME AS YOUR EFFIGY, AND SEND ME INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE! BUT I'LL SPOIL THEIR SCHEME BY CHANGING PLACES WITH MY EFFIGY!



Create a new foe for Batman

Prizes; a transistor radio and 24 Airfix construction kits

Time and again Batman has triumphed over the Penguin (right), the Riddler, the Joker, Cat Woman, Ma Parker and other villains of Gotham City. So create a new foe for Batman! Just draw him (or her) on a postcard and add a few words giving him a name and describing his special line of crime. (The standard of drawing is not important; what counts are bright ideas). Add your name, address and age, and send it to Super DC, High Holborn House, 52–54 High Holborn, London WC1, to reach us within 30 days of publication.



Entries arriving after the date given above will not be considered. A panel of artists will judge the contest and award the prizes, taking competitors' ages into consideration. We reserve the right to send a prize of equal value should circumstances cause this.

Winners will be announced later. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Employees and relatives of the staff of Super DC are barred from competing. The competition is open only to readers in the United Kingdom and Eire.

The Skipper's MAILBAG

High Holborn House, 52/54 High Holborn, London WC1.

SOME of Batman's equipment is pretty fantastic. So is James Bond's—particularly his jet pack and his Aston-Martin with the ejector seat and the tack-spreading device.

But I think Maxwell Smart in *Get Smart* has them beaten. Just look at his equipment. It includes a horn-button telephone which fits into a car's steering wheel; sun glasses and case which act as a two-way radio (the frames having an ear plug receiver); a flute that shoots poison ice bullets to make the wound appear as though a vampire had bitten the victim an apple that holds a tape recording listening device.

Plus—a tie which has a tube beneath it, so that a turn of the clasp pours poison into a victim's drink; a shoe which has a telephone hidden beneath the sole; a wallet which contains another phone, in case Smart can't slip off his shoe easily; and a banana that holds a radio receiver and which can be swallowed if necessary!

It set me to work dreaming up some new devices for a super hero. I got as far as spectacles which enable him to see through solid objects, a bullet-proof waistcoat, gloves that give him a grip like iron and wings to make him fly. Then I realised: Superman has all these powers already—naturally!

ARTHUR JOHNSON

Kidderminster,
Worcs.

MY ambition is to be an artist. I would like to draw strips like Batman and Superman. Could you get Bob Kane, the creator of Batman, to give me some advice, please?

PAUL NEWELL

Prestwich,
Lancs.

Delighted to help! Bob says, "I suppose that I must have printer's ink in my blood, for as far back as I can recall, I've had a pencil in my hand and am sure that I must be the champion doodler of all times.

"I remember doodling in my school books, much to my teachers' chagrin. My doodling efforts, of course, were comics, some copied and some created. My early idols in the comics field were Dick Tracy, Barney Google and Flash Gordon.

"Upon graduation from high school, I won a scholarship to a couple of art schools in New York, where I studied a bit of rudimentary draftsmanship, but I could never find a really good school to study cartooning with. (However, I should confess to taking a few elementary correspondence courses.)

"I developed myself, mostly through observation and study of the entire field of comic strips and through disciplined self-application, by constantly drawing and creating my own cartoons.

"I've often been asked whether I have any advice to give to aspiring, young cartoonists. Advice, I find is cheap, and doesn't mean too much as such, depending on how one uses and evaluates it. The best advice I can give is that nothing really takes the place of basic preparation and training, in building a good solid foundation in art schools, and self-observation of the entire realm of comic art. A strong right or left hand, tenacity, perseverance, and good old elbowgrease. I've never found a short cut and I don't believe you will either as, after 20 years or so of the grindstone, I am still more or less 'glued' to the drawing board.

"If I haven't discouraged you, I wish you full steam ahead, as every field is always open for true creativity."

RECENTLY I saw an exhibition by a Royal Artillery motorcyle team. This thrilling act includes a ride through a tunnel of fire and 14 men riding on one machine.

The team, which is led by Captain Hammerton, frequently gives exhibitions in order to attract recruits to the army. "People get the same excitement from watching us as they might from a trapeze act at the circus. It's the element of danger that attracts them," says Captain Hammerton. "But we don't ride our bikes on the road; in fact we never go anywhere by motorbike!"

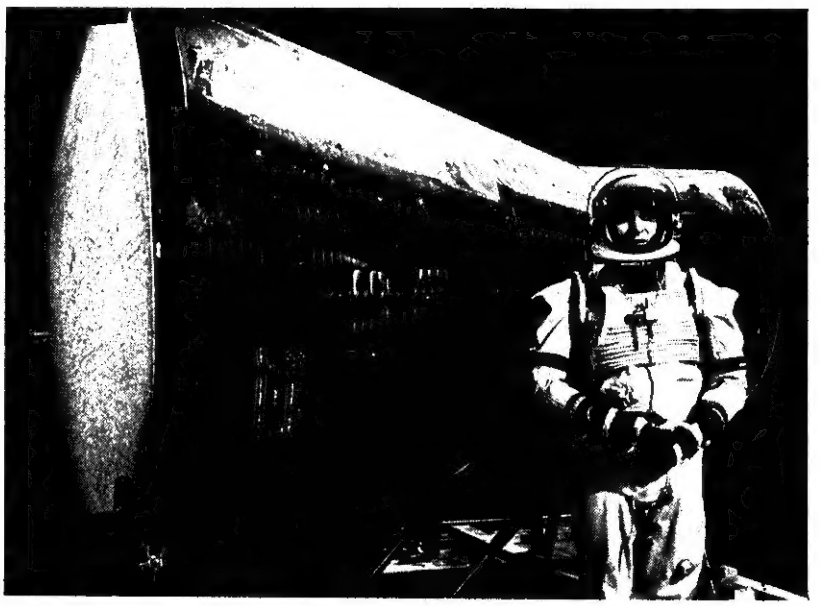
Wouldn't motorists get a shock if they met 14 men on one motorcycle zooming up the motorway!

ROBIN JONES

Banstead,
Surrey.

QUIZMASTER

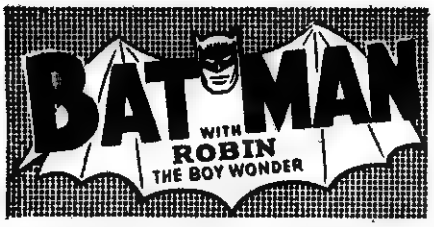
What do you know about astronauts?



1. In this picture from a *Blue Peter* programme, Peter Purves wears the helmet of the first US astronaut. What was his name? 2. Who was the first man to orbit earth? 3. In which year? 4. What is the name given to the US moon project? 5. The name of the rockets used in it?

ANSWERS

1. Col. John Glenn; 2. Major Yuri Gagarin; 3. 1961; 4. Apollo; 5. Saturn.



The EGGSTERMINATOR

BRUCE WAYNE grimaced as he sliced off the top of his breakfast egg and sniffed. "Where did you buy these eggs, Alfred," he asked. "Was it by any chance from China?"

"Holy gasmasks!" snorted Dick Grayson. "I'd say this egg of mine was laid round about the Ming dynasty."

"Dear, dear me, sir," said Alfred, hovering over the breakfast table. "May I bring you something else, Mr Bruce and Master Dick. Bacon and kidneys, maybe?"

"Not a thing, Alfred," smiled Wayne. "That egg has put me off my appetite."

He went into the library and the Batphone sounded. "Batman here, Commissioner," he spoke crisply into the Batphone. "What's on your mind this sunny morning, sir?"

"Eggs, Batman," stuttered the Commissioner and Wayne wondered if he had heard aright. "Eggs, Batman; eggs all over Gotham City. Eggs doing the most eggstraordinary things. The City is beside itself with eggsasperation—good heavens, you see how it's got me. We need you, Dynamic Duo."

"The eggs, Commissioner," Batman pursued patiently. "Just what have these eggs been *doing?*"

EGGSPLOSIONS

"Batman, some of them have eggsploded in peoples' faces. Some are filled with smoke powder, some have tiny radio transceivers in them and one woman states that an egg she got from a man in the street held a pearl."

"You intrigue me, Commissioner. We're on our way," Batman said, and he hung up. "Dick," he called out, "to the Batpoles!"

The Batmobile thundered out of its hidden exit and was on its way to Gotham City before either of the Caped Crusaders spoke. It was Robin, the Boy Wonder, who broke the silence.

"I remember now, Batman," he exclaimed, punching one gloved hand into the palm of the other. "That crazy crook we ran up against in the past, the character who calls himself Egg Head."

"Eggsactly, Robin," smiled Batman. "It is impossible to eggsagerate the eggregious eggsploits of that eggstrovert villain. And he's up to some eggceedingly eggsasperating caper right now. Our first call, I think, will be to the Fresh Farm Shoppe on State Street where Alfred bought our own rather peculiar eggs for breakfast this morning."

When they arrived at the Fresh Farm Shoppe, the manager was tearing his hair. The big store, as clean and hygienic as a laboratory, was also clean of customers. "They're shunning my shop as if there was a plague, Batman," he groaned when they appeared.

"Where do your supplies come from?" asked Batman.

"I've been buying most of my eggs recently from the Willow Farm, on the Gotham Turnpike Road. They were cheaper and, until this last day or two, the freshest."

"We'll go see this egg farmer," Batman said energetically and, followed by Robin, he swept from the store.

In the Batmobile the Batphone was pinging and Batman grabbed the receiver. "Batman here, Commissioner," he rapped. "What's new?"

A groan came over the phone. "The biggest wave of petty robberies you ever heard of, Batman. Houses and shops by the hundred are being raided. It's always when one of the eggs has exploded or has released a stink or a cloud of smoke and everyone is excited and jumpy. The thieves must be lurking outside, waiting for the signal—"

"From the eggs with the transceivers in them, Commissioner," put in Batman incisively.

"That's a good theory, Batman. Scores of places have been robbed this morning. There must be a positive army of petty thieves engaged in this. Not much for each but if you add all the values together it'd be a colossal total."

"Any more pearls, Commissioner?"

"Not a one except that first one, Batman."

"To Willow Farm, Robin," snapped Batman when he had hung up. "This has gone far enough."

"Holy omelettes, yeah," said Robin. "It's a eggstremely urgent."

Willow Farm was a few miles into the lush countryside surrounding Gotham City and it was a peaceful pastoral scene which met their eyes when they hid the Batmobile and went towards the farm on foot. It looked a perfectly ordinary poultry farm with thousands of hens ... White Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Buff Orpingtons, White Leghorns and others.

EGGSASPERATION

Batman opened a door of one of the coops and, as they were looking at the hens perched inside, a net fell down and enveloped them in its folds. They struggled to escape but the more they struggled the tighter they became entangled. The hens set up a violent clucking and scolding. Clouds of feathers filled the air and then a mocking laugh came from behind them.

The net was hauled by a group of low-browed strong-arm men across the yard and into the big house. The Dynamic Duo were dragged roughly along oval corridors and through oval

doorways and dumped down in the middle of an egg-shaped room with eggshaped windows. Egg Head was inside that room, beaming down at them from his great height.

"You eggcentric fiend," yelled Robin from inside the net. "What frightful villainy are you up to now?"

EGGSPLANATIONS

"You should know by now, Boy Wonder," Egg Head chided. "I am engaged, dear Teenage Thunderbolt, in relieving the populace of our fair city of their watches, necklaces, trinkets, loose change—in fact anything they leave lying about at breakfast time."

"You'll not get away with this, Egg Head," said Batman from tight lips.

"But I *have* got away with it, dear Dauntless Double," beamed the crook. "And, once you are out of circulation, my eggs will roll out in even greater numbers to appear on countless breakfast tables every morning. Each person will be half afraid of his egg and half covetous that there might be a pearl inside it. Think of the struggle in their minds. Avarice will win in most cases and they'll break their egg. Pow! Zowie! I will insert a pearl in every, say, 10,000th egg, to keep the fun going."

He made a sign to his minions and they opened another door. The big net holding Batman and Robin was dragged into another room. A huge egg-timer was fixed to the ceiling and attached to the bottom was a steel bar connected to a large cauldron filling with boiling water from hoses. The net was dumped into a large, shallow bowl on the floor and Egg Head stood as though calculating angles.

There was a change in his voice and a steely note crept into it. "I'm going to make you two suffer, Dynamic Duo," he hissed. "The water in that cauldron is being heated electrically and will remain at boiling point. When the sand has filled the bottom globe of my egg-timer, its weight will trip a lever, the cauldron will turn over and its contents will descend on you two. It will hurt eggscruciatingly, I can promise you that."

He snapped his fingers and several of his henchmen, wearing thick gloves, laid hold of the edges of the cauldron to steady it. Egg Head flipped a switch and the giant egg-timer turned ponderously until all the sand was in the top globe. The steel bar was reaffixed to the bottom of the apparatus and Egg Head stepped back.

"Quite a lot of sand to drop through, Caped Crusaders," he observed gaily. "You'll have plenty of time to look forward to your hot bath. Now I must leave you. There is much to do in the packing sheds. All the eggs have to be slit open skilfully, emptied and refilled at my choice, leaving no traces of the cutting or the resealing."

EGGSTERMINATION

Steam from the boiling water filled the room. Batman stared at the giant egg-timer. The sand was running down through the narrow middle in a fine shower and on the bottom there was already a small heap. "I can guess what you're thinking, Batman," Robin grinned, and he squirmed round in the net to get at his pouched belt. "You're thinking of the plastic—"

"Don't for heaven's sake say eggsplosive, Robin," laughed Batman. "I don't think I can take any more of that right now. Yes, get out the plastic thingummy and pass it to me."

"I'll start burning the ropes with my laser pistol," Robin said. "Don't set off that stuff until we're out of this."

The laser beam burned through the heavy ropes and they leaped out of the bowl. Batman studied the mechanism of the giant egg-timer and the cauldron curiously.

"The whole thing swings round, Robin," he said. "We can swing it any way we like. Let's move it so that the cauldron faces the door. Then I'll detonate the explosive against the door."

EGGSPULSION

The explosive made a very impressive noise and a considerable hole in the door. Batman had timed it nicely. Just as the mob of thugs poured excitedly through the hole, headed by Egg Head, the sand filled the bottom globe of the egg-timer and it swung round again. The steel bar, released of the weight of the sand, tripped the lever and the huge cauldron up-ended and a flood of scalding water rushed towards the mob.

Batman and Robin were waiting outside for them as they poured out. They had found a bucket of pitch and a brush in a corner of the farmyard and as each crook stumbled out, Batman daubed the figure with the pitch. Robin, meanwhile, was busy with another brush, sweeping feathers from the poultry houses.

The hapless mobsters became enveloped in tar and feathers. Egg Head was dancing with fury as Batman bundled the sorry lot into an empty poultry house and padlocked the doors.

ALL THE WINNERS

OUR panel of judges had no easy task in deciding the winners of *Super DC* Contest No. 1, in which entrants had to colour a veteran car. But here is the full list of winners.

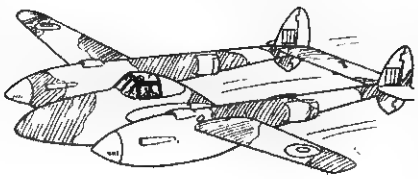
Haltron transistor radios go to 11-year-old Pat Cole of Leckhampton Road, South Shore, Blackpool, and 7-year-old David Reid of Ashton Park, Woolton, Liverpool.

Action Man pilots go to 9-year-old Michael Lindsay of Hurst Park Drive, Huyton, Lancs., and 10-year-old Thomas Curbishley of Dee Way, Winsford, Cheshire. Bonanza movable man models were won by Paul Griffiths (6) of Blogg Avenue, Nantwich, Cheshire, and Michael Wilding (5) of Brattan Road, Birkenhead.

The winners of the 24 consolation prizes of Airfix scale construction kits were as follows: Louise Ann Keates (10) of Market Place, Leek, Staffs; Thomas Flanagan (9), Woodland Road, Walton, Liverpool; Michael Lane (10), Oxton Road, Birkenhead; Stephen Woods (11), Leather's Lane, Halewood, Liverpool; John Walsh (7), Larchwood Avenue, Maghull, Lancs; Derek Anthony Barnes (8), The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Lancs; Duncan Richard Holland (7), Mossley Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs; Mark Anthony Smith (8), Dunnisher Road, Newall Green, Manchester; Alec Wilson (9), Walker Road, Blackley, Manchester; Elvin Simpson (12), Smallbridge, Rochdale, Lancs; Steven Hopkins (13), John Booth Street, Springhead, Oldham; Denis Winslade (11), Dewsbury Road, Anfield, Liverpool; Robert Alan Walker (12), Wellfield Road, Blackburn; C. Wilson (14), Hillcrest Avenue, Heaton Mersey, Stockport; Brian Evans (9), Bron-y-Dre, Wrexham, N. Wales; Clifford Norman Evans (12), Curlew Way, Moreton Wirral, Cheshire; Francesca Negus (12), Pitville Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool; Donald Watson (8), Ashurst Close, Liverpool; Kevin Booth (9), Balmoral Road, Lancaster; Michael John Toole (11), Rydal Road, Little Harwood, Blackburn; Stephen Gregory (11), Endsor Street, Moss Side, Manchester; John Moonan (12), Howard Florey Avenue, Netherton, Liverpool; Christopher Sinclair (12), Tancred Road, Liverpool; Stephen Brown (14), Windsor View, Liverpool.

•SUPER DC MUSEUM•

America's Second World War Lockheed Lightning was one of the earliest twin-boom aircraft. It was armed with a 20 mm cannon and four .50 Browning machine-guns in the nose. Its two engines gave it a top speed of 390 mph at 15,000 ft.



SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE

WHAT GIRL WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A QUEEN, EVEN FOR A DAY? WELL, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO LOIS LANE! AND TO TOP IT, SUPERMAN IS HER SUBJECT, READY TO PERFORM HER SLIGHTEST WISH! YES, THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL REPORTER IS FLOATING ON CLOUD NO. 9... OR SO IT SEEMS, UNTIL YOU START UNRAVELLING THE DIABOLICAL PLOT BEHIND—

"LOIS LANE—QUEEN and SUPERMAN—COMMONER!"

YOU MAY CROSS THE MOAT NOW, YOUR MAJESTY!

SIR WALTER, HOW CLEVER OF YOU TO STRETCH YOUR CAPE INTO A BRIDGE!

I KNOW POOR LOIS LANE HAS FLIPPED HER WIG AND THINKS SHE'S QUEEN ELIZABETH! BUT WHY IS SUPERMAN PRETENDING TO BE SIR WALTER RALEIGH?

POLICE

ONE MORNING, IN THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY PLANET...

THEY SENT US A PAIR OF TICKETS TO THE OPENING OF THIS NEW WAX MUSEUM THAT FEATURES THE GREAT RULERS OF THE PAST. LOIS AND CLARK... COVER THE STORY!

BUT, PERRY, WHY TWO REPORTERS FOR A BACK-PAGE YARN?

Grand Opening THE ROYAL WAX MUSEUM

SEE THE FAMOUS RULERS OF HISTORY

YOU'LL COVER THE QUEENS AND CLARK CAN WRITE UP THE KINGS! AND I WANT EACH OF YOU TO POSE FOR A PHOTO WEARING THE COSTUME OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE KING OR QUEEN.

KING CLARK THE FIRST! THAT'S A LAUGH!

SOON, AT THE EXHIBITION HALL...

IMAGINE BEING ONE OF THOSE POWERFUL RULERS! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BLAST!

YOU A RULER? YOU'RE KIDDING, CLARK!

BUT HOW I WOULD HAVE LOVED BEING ONE OF THESE GORGEOUS QUEENS OF THE PAST!

IVAN THE TERRIBLE

JULIUS CAESAR

CHARLEMAGNE

CLEOPATRA

QUEEN OF SHEBA

MARIE ANTOINETTE

AH! LADY MACBETH, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND, WHOSE MURDEROUS PLOTS DROVE HER INSANE HER WEAPON FELL. I'LL PUT IT BACK IN THE STATUE'S HAND.

WAIT! DON'T TOUCH THAT DAGGER!

LADY MACBETH

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL DAGGER LADY MACBETH USED. THERE'S A CURSE ON IT! THEY SAY THAT ANYONE WHO TOUCHES IT WILL GO MAD LIKE THE QUEEN.

AND YOU THINK THAT ZANY CURSE WILL AFFECT ME?

THIS WILL MAKE A COLOURFUL ANGLE FOR MY STORY!

GUARD

TIME TO TAKE A PHOTO OF ME AS A RULER. WE HAVE PERMISSION TO USE ANY COSTUMES WE LIKE! SHALL I DRESS AS NAPOLEON?...OR KING ARTHUR?

NO! I'VE A BETTER IDEA, CLARK.

NAPOLEON

KING ARTHUR

MINUTES LATER...

YOU'LL POSE AS KING HENRY VIII, WHO WAS A FAMOUS GLUTTON! EAT UP THAT CHICKEN I GOT FOR YOU... ALL OF IT, EXCEPT THE BONES!

NEEDLING ME, EH? I'LL FIX HER!

AS LOIS TURNS TO CHANGE THE FILM IN HER CAMERA...

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO HAVE SOME FUN... I'LL FINISH THIS CHICKEN AT SUPER-SPEED WHILE SHE'S NOT LOOKING!

CHOMP! CHOMP!

CLARK! YOU DID EAT THE ENTIRE CHICKEN! BUT HOW COULD YOU DO IT SO FAST? UNLESS... YOU'RE REALLY SUPERMAN!

IF I WERE SUPERMAN, WOULD I BE SO OBVIOUS? ACTUALLY, THAT CHICKEN HAD LESS MEAT TO IT THAN YOU THOUGHT!

OH, WELL, NOW IT'S TIME TO TAKE MY PHOTO AS A QUEEN. SHALL I DRESS AS CATHERINE THE GREAT? QUEEN GUINEVERE?

NO, LOIS, I'VE ALREADY SELECTED YOUR COSTUME.

LET'S SEE HOW SHE CAN TAKE MY KIDDING!

PRESENTLY... YOU'RE POSING AS QUEEN ELIZABETH I OF ENGLAND! SAY "CHEESE", YOUR MAJESTY!

CLEVERRRR... YOU RAT-FINK! THAT'S THE QUEEN WHO NEVER MARRIED AND WHO DIED AN OLD MAID! ARE YOU TRYING TO HINT THAT SUPERMAN WILL NEVER MARRY ME?

LATER, AS THEY LEAVE... A SOUVENIR FOR EACH OF YOU... PICTURE POSTCARDS OF FAMOUS MALE RULERS FOR THE GENTLEMAN! AND FOR THE LADY... A COLLECTION OF FAMOUS QUEENS!

THANKS. WHAT A LOVELY MEMENTO OF MY VISIT!

A VISIT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET, LOIS!

THAT NIGHT, IN LOIS' APARTMENT...

SIGH! WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL TO BE ONE OF THE QUEENS WHO MADE HISTORY?

COLUMBUS, I WOULD GLADLY SELL MY JEWELS TO BUY SHIPS FOR YOU! I KNOW YOU'LL FIND A WESTERN ROUTE TO INDIA!

BUT LOIS' FANTASY IS INTERRUPTED BY A KNOCK, AND...

AH, GOOD EVENING, QUEEN LOIS! I SEE YOUR MAJESTY HAS BEEN DAY-DREAMING

WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM YOUR SISTER, LUCY. YOU'LL HEAR IT AS SOON AS I SET UP THIS TAPE RECORDER, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS.

WHAT GOES ON HERE? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?

THEN LUCY'S FRANTIC VOICE ECHOES FROM THE RECORDER...

LOIS... IT'S ME, LUCY! SOME GANG HAS TAKEN ME AS A HOSTAGE! I BEG YOU... PLEASE DO AS THEY SAY MY LIFE IS AT STAKE, AND...

THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO KNOW FOR NOW. WE'VE GOT YOUR SISTER AND YOU'D BETTER OBEY OUR ORDERS IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER ALIVE.

YOU RAT! IF YOU SO MUCH AS HARM ONE HAIR OF HER HEAD...

CLICK!

NO! I MUST CONTROL MYSELF! SAVING LUCY IS THE IMPORTANT THING!

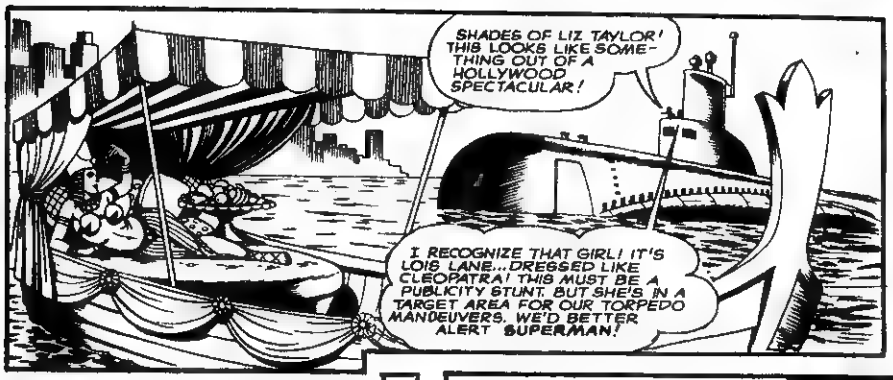
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO SAVE MY SISTER! BUT WHAT?

DON'T PANIC! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SUPERMAN THINK YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE YOU'RE SOME OF THESE QUEENS!

YOU REALLY THINK I CAN CONVINCE SUPERMAN THAT I'VE LOST MY MIND? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'D FALL FOR SUCH A CHILDISH GIMMICK?
BECAUSE HE'LL BLAME YOUR MADNESS ON THE CURSE OF THE DAGGER! YOU WROTE IT UP IN YOUR ARTICLE, REMEMBER?
DAILY PLANET
THE CURSE OF THE WAX MUSEUM BY LOIS LANE

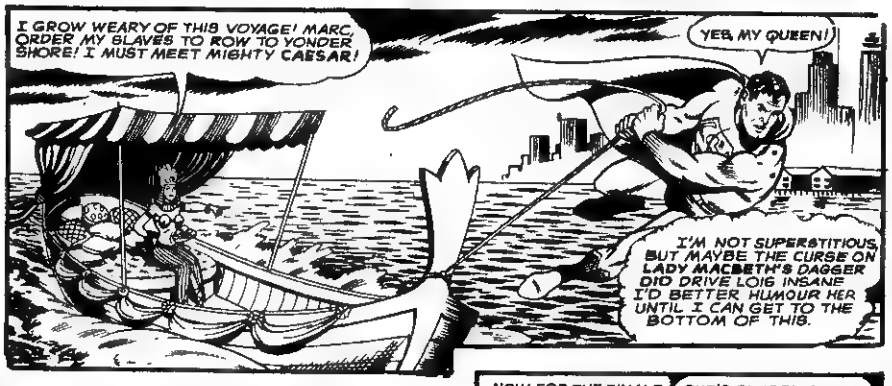
YES, WE'VE COVERED ALL THE ANGLES...EVER SINCE WE SENT YOU INVITATIONS TO VISIT THE WAX MUSEUM!...NOW HERE'S THE SET-UP FOR YOUR FIRST ACT. YOU'LL WEAR THIS EGYPTIAN CROWN AND MEET US AT DUGAN'S CAVE...
IF I DON'T OBEY, IT'S LUCY'S FINISH!

NEXT MORNING, ABOARD A SUBMARINE IN METROPOLIS BAY...
THEN YOU SEE IT, TOO, CAPTAIN? THANK HEAVENS! I THOUGHT I WAS GOING OFF MY ROCKER.
SURFACE THE SUB! THIS THING CAN'T BE FOR REAL!


SHADES OF LIZ TAYLOR! THIS LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A HOLLYWOOD SPECTACULAR!
I RECOGNIZE THAT GIRL! IT'S LOIS LANE...DRESSED LIKE CLEOPATRA! THIS MUST BE A PUBLICITY STUNT. BUT SHE'S IN A TARGET AREA FOR OUR TORPEDO MANOEUVERS. WE'D BETTER ALERT SUPERMAN!

AS SUPERMAN RESPONDS TO THE ALARM...
LOIS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS SCOW? AND WHY THAT EGYPTIAN GET-UP?
WHO IS THIS LOIS WENCH YOU SPEAK OF? I AM CLEOPATRA, QUEEN OF THE NILE!

OH, MARC ANTONY! I DID NOT RECOGNIZE YOU IN THAT OUTLANDISH COSTUME!
LOIS REALLY THINKS SHE'S CLEOPATRA! HAS SHE GONE MAD? HMM!...MAD...THAT DAGGER SHE TOUCHED AT THE WAX MUSEUM...


I GROW WEARY OF THIS VOYAGE! MARC, ORDER MY SLAVES TO ROW TO YONDER SHORE! I MUST MEET MIGHTY CAESAR!
YES, MY QUEEN!
I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS, BUT MAYBE THE CURSE ON LADY MACBETH'S DAGGER DID DRIVE LOIS INSANE I'D BETTER HUMOUR HER UNTIL I CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

THEN, A SINISTER WHISPER IN LOIS' EAR...
HSST! YOUR CLEOPATRA ACT IS GOING OVER BIG, DOLL! NOW KEEP FOLLOWING THE SCRIPT, OR YOUR SISTER TAKES A ONE-WAY RIDE!
NO WONDER THE GANG ORDERED ME TO WEAR THIS CROWN. IT'S GOT A HIDDEN, ELECTRONIC "BUG" THAT EAVESDROPS ON MY EVERY WORD.

WE HAVE ARRIVED, YOUR MAJESTY!
DISMISS MY SLAVES! CAESAR'S CHARIOT WILL BE HERE SHORTLY
HE'S SO WORRIED! IT'S KILLING ME TO DECEIVE HIM THIS WAY...WHAT DOES THAT GANG HAVE TO GAIN BY TRICKING SUPERMAN?

NOW FOR THE FINALE OF MY ACT...
SHE'S SNAPPING OUT OF HER STRANGE FANTASY!
UHH! WHERE AM I? SUPERMAN...WHAT AM I DOING HERE IN THIS WHACKY COSTUME?
I'LL EXPLAIN, LOIS!

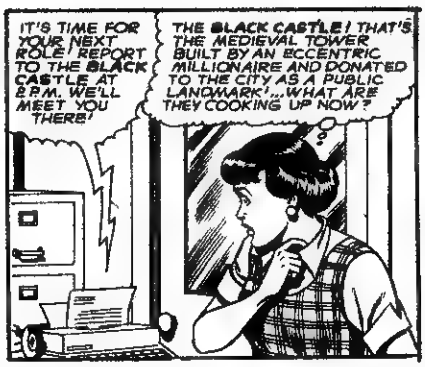
MOMENTS LATER...
YOU MEAN I WAS SUFFERING FROM SOME WEIRD DELUSION? SUPERMAN, I'M FRIGHTENED! SUPPOSE THE CURSE OF THE DAGGER REALLY IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!
THERE, THERE, LOIS! YOU MUSTN'T BELIEVE SUCH SILLY LEGENDS!

YOU'RE PROBABLY UNDER A SUBCONSCIOUS MENTAL PRESSURE, ...JUST A TEMPORARY CONDITION I'LL TAKE YOU HOME, LOIS.
HOW IRONIC! HE'D DO ANYTHING TO HELP ME IF HE KNEW WHAT I WAS REALLY GOING THROUGH, BUT I DON'T DARE TELL HIM.

NEXT DAY, AT THE DAILY PLANET...
LOIS! THE OWNER OF THE BARGE SAYS YOU PAID $500 TO HAVE THEM HAUL YOU OUT INTO THE BAY!
I MUST HAVE TAKEN THE MONEY OUT OF MY SAVINGS ACCOUNT!
I DON'T DARE TELL HIM LUCY'S KIDNAPPERS GAVE ME THE CASH

BUT I'M GLAD YOU SEEM NORMAL AGAIN! SO LONG! I'M OFF ON AN IMPORTANT MISSION.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, SUPERMAN.
I FEEL LIKE A HEEL, HOODWINKING HIM-THIS WAY. WHAT'S THE GANG'S ANGLE, ANYHOW? MAYBE I SHOULD TELL HIM WHAT'S GOING ON.

BUT AT THAT INSTANT...
NICE GOING, MISS LANE! DON'T BE TEMPTED TO BLAB TO SUPERMAN! OUR ORGANIZATION HAS YOU UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE.
YE GODS! THOSE FIENDS EVEN HAVE MY TYPEWRITER BUGGED!


IT'S TIME FOR YOUR NEXT ROLE! REPORT TO THE BLACK CASTLE AT 8 P.M. WE'LL MEET YOU THERE!
THE BLACK CASTLE! THAT'S THE MEDIEVAL TOWER BUILT BY AN ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE AND DONATED TO THE CITY AS A PUBLIC LANDMARK!...WHAT ARE THEY COOKING UP NOW?

THAT EVENING...
HEY! THE CASTLE'S CLOSED FOR REPAIRS! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SEARCH ME! SOMEONE ORDERED THIS KING-SIZE BANQUET TO BE DELIVERED TO THE MAIN HALL!
METROPOLIS PARTY CATERERS

KING-SIZE? NO, QUEEN-SIZE! FOR, WITHIN THE CASTLE...
OKAY, LADY! WE'VE SET THE TABLE! ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT?
YOU DARE CALL ME A MERE LADY? I AM ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF ALL ENGLAND! BEGONE, KNAVE!
THAT'S LOIS LANE, SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND! I'D BETTER GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM, FAST!

JUST THEN...
THERE SHE IS, SUPERMAN! THE POOR GIRL MUST HAVE SLIPPED INTO THE EMPTY CASTLE WHEN NO ONE WAS WATCHING!
OH, NO! LOIS IS ON HER QUEEN KICK AGAIN!

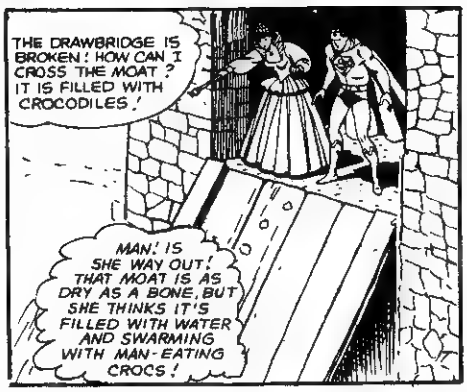
SECONDS LATER...
A GREAT PERFORMANCE, MISS LANE! KEEP IT UP AND YOU'LL NOT ONLY SAVE LUCY'S LIFE, BUT YOU MAY EVEN WIN AN OSCAR! HA, HA!
GASP! THEY HAVE THE SCEPTRE BUGGED!
SIGN OFF, YOU CREEPS! SUPERMAN WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND!

AH! SIR WALTER RALEIGH, MY HANDSOMEST COURTIER! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO CELEBRATE THE DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA!
SHE THINKS SHE'S ELIZABETH I OF ENGLAND! I'LL GO ALONG WITH THE GAG TO KEEP FROM UPSETTING HER MORE!

I'LL START BY SERVING ADMIRAL SIR FRANCIS DRAKE!
POOR LOIS! HER DEMENTED MIND SEES REAL PEOPLE SEATED IN THOSE EMPTY CHAIRS!

SHE NEEDS HELP! I MUST LURE HER OUT OF HERE WITHOUT SCARING HER! I'VE GOT AN IDEA... I'LL USE SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM!
HURRAH FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH!

AS THE HALL RE-ECHOES TO SUPERMAN'S VENTRILOQUIST CRY...
HURRAH FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH! HURRAH!
YOUR MAJESTY, LISTEN TO THOSE CHEERS! YOUR PEOPLE AWAIT YOU OUTSIDE THE CASTLE!
SHADES OF EDGAR BERGEN! HE'S DOING IT WITH SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM!
VERY WELL, SIR WALTER! ESCORT ME TO THEM!

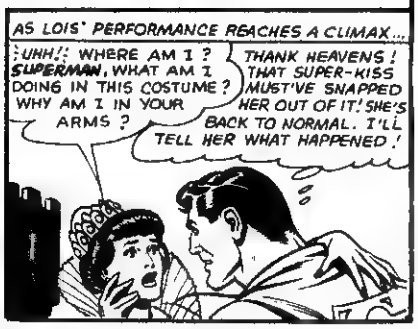

THE DRAWBRIDGE IS BROKEN! HOW CAN I CROSS THE MOAT? IT IS FILLED WITH CROCODILES!
MAN! IS SHE WAY OUT! THAT MOAT IS AS DRY AS A BONE, BUT SHE THINKS IT'S FILLED WITH WATER AND SWARMING WITH MAN-EATING CROCS!

THAT RALEIGH BIT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
I KNEW I COULD RELY ON YOU, SIR WALTER!
WAIT HERE, YOUR MAJESTY! I'LL GET YOU ACROSS SAFELY!
HMM... I WONDER HOW HE'S GOING TO WORK THIS ONE?

MOMENTS LATER...
YOU MAY CROSS THE MOAT NOW, YOUR MAJESTY!
MY SUPER-STRETCHABLE CAPE MAKES A DANDY BRIDGE!
THANK YOU, SIR WALTER!
TALK ABOUT HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF! HE REMEMBERED THE STORY ABOUT RALEIGH COVERING A PUDDLE WITH HIS CAPE SO THAT THE REAL QUEEN ELIZABETH COULD CROSS IT!

AFTER SUPERMAN DONS HIS CAPE AGAIN...
WELL DONE, MY HANDSOME ONE! AS A REWARD FOR YOUR DEVOTION, I HAVE DECIDED TO MARRY YOU! RISE AND RECEIVE MY BETROTHAL KISS!
WHAT A ROLE! I'M GOING TO PLAY IT TO THE HILT!

SINCE THEY'RE FORCING ME TO ACT LIKE I'VE POPPED MY CORK, I MAY AS WELL GET SOME FUN OUT OF THIS DEAL!


AS LOIS' PERFORMANCE REACHES A CLIMAX...
UHH! WHERE AM I? SUPERMAN, WHAT AM I DOING IN THIS COSTUME? WHY AM I IN YOUR ARMS?
THANK HEAVENS! THAT SUPER-KISS MUST'VE SNAPPED HER OUT OF IT! SHE'S BACK TO NORMAL. I'LL TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED!

AFTER SUPERMAN EXPLAINS...
... YOU MUST HAVE RENTED THE COSTUME AND THEN SLIPPED INTO THE CASTLE TO SET UP THAT ROYAL FEAST!
SUPERMAN! WHAT'S CAUSING THESE WEIRD QUEEN DELUSIONS? IT MUST BE THE CURSE OF LADY MACBETH'S DAGGER!

LATER, BACK AT LOIS' APARTMENT...
DON'T LET THAT FABLE ABOUT THE CURSE BECOME A MANIA WITH YOU, LOIS. THOSE DELUSIONS MAY VANISH IN TIME!
IF I ONLY DARED TELL HIM HOW I'M BEING BLACK-MAILED INTO THIS "MAD-QUEEN" ACT!

BUT AS SUPERMAN LEAVES...
MR. ALIAS SPEAKING OVER A CLOSED CIRCUIT HOOK-UP ON YOUR COLOUR TV WELL DONE, MISS LANE! NOW FOR YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT...
NO! STOP HOUNDING ME! I'M THROUGH ACTING OUT YOUR KOOK-QUEEN ROLES!

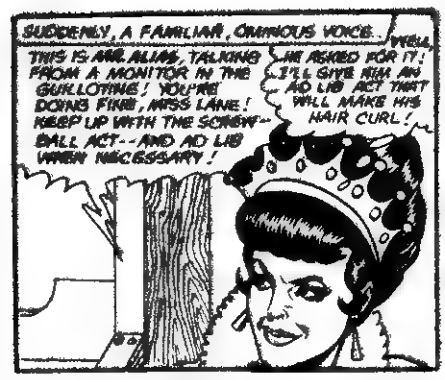
SO YOU REFUSE ORDERS, EH? MAYBE YOUR SISTER LUCY WILL CONVINCE YOU!
LOIS, PLEASE! THEY HAVE ME ON BREAD AND WATER! I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! DO AS THEY SAY!

ALL RIGHT, MR. ALIAS, YOU WIN. WHAT DO I DO?
I SEE FROM THE DAILY PLANET THAT YOUR STAFF WILL ATTEND A COSTUME BALL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY! YOU'RE TO GO AS QUEEN MARIE ANTOINETTE!

THERE'LL BE SEVERAL HISTORICAL EXHIBITS AT THE BALL! USE THE GUILLOTINE IN THE FRENCH DISPLAY TO RE-ENACT MARIE ANTOINETTE'S EXECUTION! ... BUT DON'T TRY TO SUMMON SUPERMAN!
AFRAID OF SUPERMAN? EH? I'LL REMEMBER THAT!

NEXT DAY, AT THE PLANET OFFICE...
CLARK, YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS IN THAT SUPERMAN OUTFIT! I'LL HAVE TO ASK JIMMY TO ESCORT ME TO THE BALL. AT LEAST HIS MUSKETEER GET-UP FITS IN WITH MY MARIE ANTOINETTE COSTUME!
LOIS SEEMS HER NORMAL SELF AGAIN. GOOD!

BUT THAT NIGHT, AT THE BALL...
YOU DARE SERVE ME FROM THE SAME TRAY AS THIS RABBLE! BE GONE AND FETCH ME SOME PHEASANT UNDER GLASS!
UH-OH! LOIS IS AT IT AGAIN! SOMETHING MUST'VE TRIGGERED HER INTO ANOTHER ROYAL PIPE-DREAM!


SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR, OMINOUS VOICE...
THIS IS MR. ALIAS, TALKING FROM A MONITOR IN THE GUILLOTINE! YOU'RE DOING FINE, MISS LANE! KEEP UP WITH THE SCREWBALL ACT--AND AD LIB WHEN NECESSARY!
HE ASKED FOR IT! I'LL GIVE HIM AN AD LIB ACT THAT WILL MAKE HIS HAIR CURL!

AH, WITH YOUR GLASSES OFF, YOU LOOK HANDSOME. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO MARRY ME AND RULE AT MY SIDE?
LATER, YOUR MAJESTY, WHEN THE CATHEDRAL IS PREPARED FOR THE WEDDING!
I'LL PRETEND TO GO ALONG WITH THE GAG TO KEEP FROM EMBARRASSING POOR LOIS!

WHAT? DO YOU DEFY ME, IMPUDENT COMMONER? OFF WITH HIS HEAD!
LOOK! AN EXECUTIONER IS LEADING CLARK KENT TO THE GUILLOTINE! IS THIS A COMIC SKIT, OR HAS LOIS LANE GONE CRAZY?

CRAZY LIKE A FOX! THIS IS JUST WHAT I PLANNED. JIMMY THINKS CLARK IS IN REAL DANGER AND IS ACTIVATING HIS EMERGENCY SIGNAL-WATCH TO SUMMON SUPERMAN HERE. WHEN SUPERMAN ARRIVES, HE'LL BE ABLE TO STOP WHATEVER CROOKED SCHEME MR. ALIAS IS PLANNING.
ZEE ZEE

BUT, THE NEXT MOMENT...
THE EXECUTIONER RELEASED THE BLADE! WHERE IS SUPERMAN?
EEEEEE!

GASP!! THE BLADE BROKE ON CLARK'S NECK! CLARK, YOU'RE SUPERMAN AFTER ALL!
THE SHOCK ERASED HER FANTASY! LOIS IS BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF... STILL TRYING TO PROVE I'M SUPERMAN!

GOT TO GET RID OF THIS CROWD SO I CAN TALK TO LOIS...
IT WAS ALL A GAG, FOLKS! I WAS WEARING AN IRON COLLAR, AND THE GUILLOTINE BLADE WAS A PHONEY!
HA, HA, HA! WHAT A STUNT!

POOR LOIS! WHEN THAT BLADE SHATTERS ON MY INDESTRUCTIBLE NECK, SHE'LL REALIZE I'M REALLY SUPERMAN! HER MIND MAY BECOME PERMANENTLY AFFECTED. I'VE GOT TO CHANCE IT!
LOIS! SUPERMAN WARNED US ABOUT YOUR ILLUSIONS, WE WERE AFRAID YOU MIGHT GO HAYWIRE AND WANT TO USE THIS GUILLOTINE ON SOMEONE, SO WE BROUGHT THIS COLLAR ALONG JUST IN CASE!
YES, AND PERRY DRESSED AS THE EXECUTIONER TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS!

WE CAME HERE EARLY AND REPLACED THE GUILLOTINE BLADE WITH A SHATTERABLE, PLASTIC IMITATION!
TH-THANKS FOR JOLTING ME BACK TO REALITY.
THEY'RE ALL SO LOYAL! I'M A HEEL TO KEEP HOAXING THEM!

THAT NIGHT, LOIS GETS A VISITOR...
SO YOU TRIED TO TRICK US, MISS LANE? WELL, SINCE YOU LIKE TO HAVE SUPERMAN AROUND, WE'LL FEATURE HIM IN YOUR FINAL PERFORMANCE AS A QUEEN!
JUST ONE MORE QUEEN, YET? OKAY, MR. ALIAS. NAME IT!

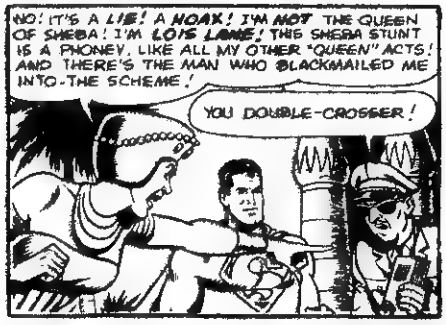
REPORT TO THE ABANDONED FILMLAND MOVIE LOT OUTSIDE METROPOLIS TOMORROW AT NOON. THIS TIME, YOU'LL PRETEND YOU'RE THE QUEEN OF SHEBA AND GIVE ORDERS TO SUPERMAN AS ONE OF YOUR SUBJECTS. I'LL FILL YOU IN WHEN I SET UP THIS SLIDE PROJECTOR!

AS A ZANY "SHEBA" YOU'LL COAX SUPERMAN TO FLY YOU TO YOUR PALACE TO GET THE ROYAL JEWELS. THIS FILM STRIP IS A RECONSTRUCTION OF SHEBA'S LOST PALACE. YOU'LL USE IT AS A GUIDE.
AND AFTER SUPERMAN FINDS THE REAL SHEBA'S JEWELS FOR ME, I BRING THEM TO YOU? CLEVER-R-R!

NEXT DAY, AT THE ABANDONED MOVIE LOT...
I DISGUISED MYSELF AS A GUARD AND SENT OUT AN ALERT FOR SUPERMAN!... HERE HE COMES NOW! REMEMBER! I'M IN RADIO CONTACT WITH MY GANG! CROSS ME, AND THEY FINISH OFF YOUR SISTER LUCY!

SUPERMAN! GLAD YOU CAME! I FOUND YOUR FRIEND, LOIS LANE, HERE ON THE LOT. SHE THINKS SHE'S THE QUEEN OF SHEBA!
HERE WE GO AGAIN!
AFTER THAT GUILLOTINE BIT, I WAS HOPING SHE WAS CURED!

UH-- SUPER-MAN...
LOIS GOOFED! SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO CALL HIM KING SOLOMON. I'LL COVER UP FOR HER!
ER. THE POOR KID SAID SHE WAS WAITING FOR KING SOLOMON TO TAKE HER TO HER PALACE TO GET THE ROYAL JEWELS... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, YOUR MAJESTY?

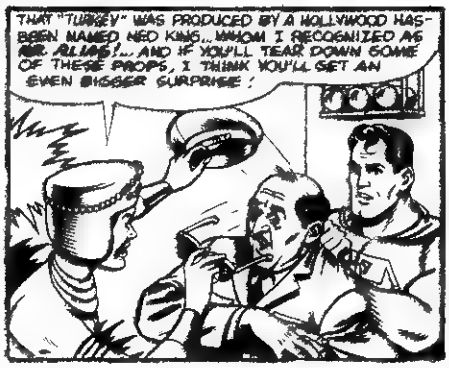

NO! IT'S A LIE! A HOAX! I'M NOT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA! I'M LOIS LANE! THIS SHEBA STUNT IS A PHONEY, LIKE ALL MY OTHER "QUEEN" ACTS! AND THERE'S THE MAN WHO BLACKMAILED ME INTO THE SCHEME!
YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER!

I'M GOING TO HAVE YOUR SISTER EXECUTED, AND NOT EVEN SUPERMAN CAN STOP ME!
OKAY, BOYS! LET HER HAVE IT!
BANG!

SUPERMAN, THIS CRUMB, MR. ALIAS, MADE ME PRETEND THAT THE "CURSE OF THE DAGGER" WAS DRIVING ME INSANE. SO I COULD TRICK YOU INTO FINDING THE REAL SHEBA'S LOST JEWELS!
AND YOU CONDEMNED YOUR OWN SISTER LUCY TO DEATH JUST TO EXPOSE HIM?

"THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED ME TO THINK. BUT HE SLIPPED UP WHEN HE SHOWED ME MY 'SISTER' ON CLOSED CIRCUIT COLOUR TV...
LOIS, THEY HAVE ME ON BREAD AND WATER!
STRANGE! SHE HAS A BLACK DRESS! BUT LUCY NEVER WEARS BLACK!

"BUT I REALLY BEGAN TO SEE THE LIGHT WHEN HE SHOWED ME A FILM CLIP OF SHEBA'S PALACE.
THAT SCENE LOOKS FAMILIAR. YES, I SAW IT AT A PRESS PREVIEW OF A MOVIE FLOPPEROO CALLED "THE QUEEN OF SHEBA"!


THAT "TURKEY" WAS PRODUCED BY A HOLLYWOOD HAS-BEEN NAMED NED KING... WHOM I RECOGNIZED AS MR. ALIAS!... AND IF YOU'LL TEAR DOWN SOME OF THESE PROPS, I THINK YOU'LL GET AN EVEN BIGGER SURPRISE!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED! ALL THOSE MAD-QUEEN STUNTS WERE A BUILD-UP FOR THIS FINAL GIMMICK! KING PLANNED TO FILM YOU RETURNING WITH THE LOST JEWELS OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA!
GREAT KRYPTON, THE JOINT IS SWARMING WITH MOVIE CAMERAS!

I WOULD HAVE GIVEN THOSE JEWELS TO A MUSEUM. I JUST WANTED SOME PUBLICITY TO PLUG MY MOVIE WHEN I RELEASE IT! I BROKE NO LAWS!
I KNOW THAT! YOU DIDN'T KIDNAP MY SISTER! YOU USED THIS BIT PLAYER TO IMPERSONATE HER!

WHY, IT'S CLARICE VAN DORN, THE RICH HEIRESS WHO STARRED IN KING'S SHEBA FLOP!
YES! I BACKED HIM WITH HALF A MILLION DOLLARS! HE SAID HE'D MAKE ME A STAR. BUT HE'S RUINED ME!

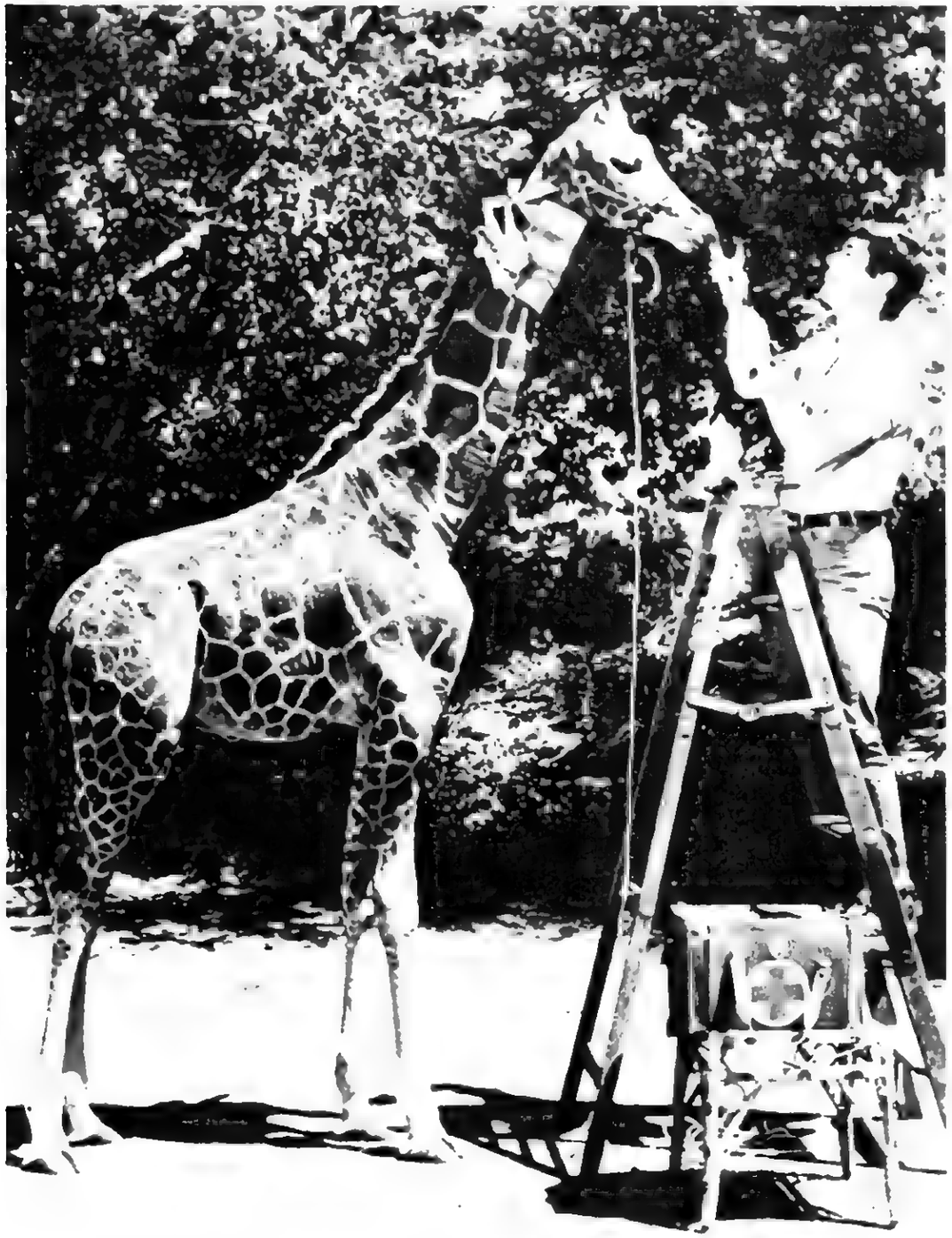
WHEN THIS ALL COMES OUT IN PUBLIC, I'LL BE HUMILIATED, DISGRACED! YOU DIM-WITTED CLOD!
THIS I'VE GOT TO GET ON FILM! HELP ME, SUPERMAN!
POW

MISS LANE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! I'M NED KING!
BUT REMEMBER, I WAS CLEOPATRA, ELIZABETH, MARIE ANTOINETTE AND SHEBA! ROYAL QUEENS BEAT A KING ANYTIME!... BESIDES, WHEN THE MOVIE WORLD SEES THIS FILM, YOU'LL NEED A NEW ALIAS, MR. ALIAS! HA, HA!
THE END

FILMED IN AFRICA - USA

Daktari is the Swahili word for doctor. Which explains the title of the TV series, for it concerns Dr. Marsh Tracy (played by Marshall Thompson), who runs an animal clinic and a centre for studying animal behaviour in Africa.

The adventures are filmed in Africa. But not entirely in the continent of that name. A jungle-like piece of land in the United States of America has been named Africa. And that's the one in which Dr. Tracy is seen most often.



Enid the giraffe gets beauty treatment from Yale Summers who plays Jack Dane

ABOVE: Getting Serang, the regal tiger, positioned for the photographer are Ivan Tors, executive producer, and Ralph Helfer, head animal trainer of the series.

RIGHT: Clarence, the cross-eyed lion gets a medical check from Dr. Marsh Tracy

In the jungle operating theatre—treatment for a wild cat

Smile for the camera, Clarence! With him Paula, Marsh and Jack

BATMAN with ROBIN the Boy Wonder

The MYSTERY OF THE MENACING MASK!

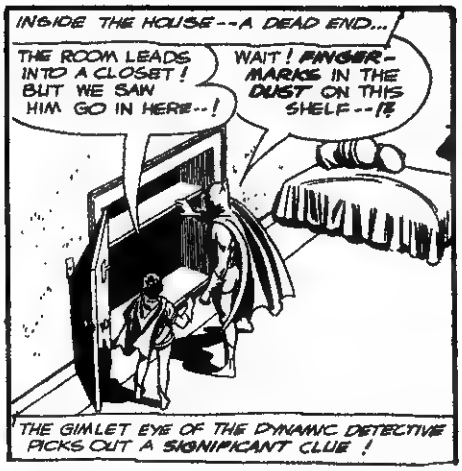
...AFTER HE LEFT ME I FOUND A MAP HE DROPPED...
A MAP OF GOTHAM VILLAGE... AND PART OF THE AREA IS CIRCLED WITH AN X!
I WONDER... IF DICK IS THINKING THE SAME THING I AM?
AN X... ENCLOSED IN A CIRCLE...!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE SIGNIFICANT GLANCE THAT HAS JUST PASSED BETWEEN BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON?...
LET US PEER INTO THEIR MINDS AS THEY RECALL A STRANGE INCIDENT THAT RECENTLY OCCURRED TO THEM IN THEIR SECRET CRIME-FIGHTING ROLES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN! AN INCIDENT...
...THAT BEGAN WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO WAS ON THE TRACK OF A MYSTERIOUS GEM-THIEF...
OUR QUARRY SLIPPED INTO THIS PENTHOUSE APARTMENT, ROBIN! I'LL GO AROUND THE BACK AND WE'LL TRY TO TRAP HIM BETWEEN US!
BUT A MOMENT AFTER THE BOY WONDER ENTERED THE ROOFTOP DWELLING...
BOOM!!!
AN EXPLOSION-- COMING FROM THE REAR OF THE APARTMENT-- WHERE BATMAN WENT--!
RESPONDING TO THE URGENCY IN ROBIN'S VOICE, BATMAN WHIPPED OFF HIS MASK...
AN ENCIRCLED X ON THE FOREHEAD OF MY MASK-- GLOWING LIKE COLD FIRE!
BATMAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?...
I--I GUESS SO! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS THE EXPLOSION!
BATMAN, YOUR MASK! QUICK--TAKE IT OFF!
NO MARK ON MY SKIN-- OH! ROBIN! THE SAME SIGN IS APPEARING ON YOUR FOREHEAD!
GOSH!
LOOK--THE MARKS ARE FADING AWAY! THEY ONLY LASTED A FEW SECONDS!
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO MARK US LIKE THAT!? WHOEVER IT WAS--HAS DISAPPEARED!
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR OFF, A FURTIVE SHAPE...
EVERYTHING WORKED OUT JUST AS PLANNED. MY EXPLOSION KNOCKED OUT BATMAN LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO BRAND HIM--AS WELL AS ROBIN WHO ENTERED THE ROOM MOMENTS LATER! FROM NOW ON, NEITHER OF THEM WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A MOVE AGAINST ME!
NEXT MORNING IN THE BAT-CAVE FOUND A GRIM PAIR HARD AT WORK...
OUR SOLE CLUE TO OUR UNKNOWN ASSAILANT, ROBIN, IS MY MASK! THERE'S SOMETHING ON IT THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE! MY CHEMICAL ANALYSIS SHOWS PAINT TRACES OF A LITTLE-KNOWN ISOTOPE OF PHOSPHORUS--!

ACCORDING TO OUR FILES, THE PHOSPHORUS ISOTOPE CAN ONLY BE PURCHASED AT ONE PLACE IN GOTHAM CITY -- THE RARE CHEMICAL COMAPANY ON MORRON STREET! AS SOON AS I PUT ON THIS SPARE MASK, WE'LL CHECK IT OUT!
AT THE CHEMICAL COMPANY...
OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT ONLY ONE PERSON HAS BOUGHT THAT PHOSPHORUS ISOTOPE RECENTLY, BATMAN -- A MR. FRANK FENTON OF 122 SUBURBAN AVENUE!
THANKS A LOT!
THIS SEEMS TOO EASY, BATMAN! IF FENTON'S A CROOK, IT'S NOT LIKELY HE WOULD GIVE HIS RIGHT NAME AND ADDRESS -- MAKE IT SO EASY FOR US TO FOLLOW HIM...
IF IT'S A FALSE LEAD, WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!
MOMENTS LATER...
BATMAN AND ROBIN! HELLOO DERE! I'M GETTING READY TO LEAVE -- FOR A PERFECT HIDEAWAY! HA! HA! BUT I KEPT STALLING TILL YOU SHOWED UP!
SUBURBAN AVENUE... NUMBER 122! AT LEAST THE ADDRESS IS LEGITIMATE.
AND THERE'S AN F. FENTON -- THIRD FLOOR! APARTMENT 3C!
THIS MUST BE THE CROOK WE TRAILED THE OTHER NIGHT, BATMAN! THAT LOOKS LIKE THE LOOT HE STOLE!
YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU WAITED, FENTON!
BUT AS THE DUO LUNGED FORWARD...
UHH--!
IT'S WORKING -- LIKE A CHARM!
NOW YOU SEE WHY I WAITED FOR YOU TWO TO APPEAR! I HAVE ABSOLUTE POWER OVER YOU BOTH, BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND I WANTED YOU TO KNOW IT! FROM NOW ON WHENEVER YOU TRY TO STOP ME, YOU'LL FREEZE -- UNABLE TO MAKE A MOVE AGAINST ME!
AH -- NOW TO GO ON WITH MY PACKING! LET'S SEE, I MUSTN'T LEAVE BEHIND THIS DIAMOND NECKLACE -- THESE PEARLS --
HE'S BOLDLY DANGLING LOOT FROM HIS RECENT ROBBERIES IN FRONT OF US!
CAN'T MOVE! IT'S AS IF MY LEGS WEIGH TONS --
MY ARMS -- LIKE LEAD! WHAT'S HE DONE TO US, BATMAN?

WHAT A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ME--AND A BLEAK ONE FOR YOU! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR YOU TO APPREHEND ME IN A CRIME--AND HELPLESSLY WATCH AS I GET AWAY WITH IT!
DON'T WORRY, IN A FEW MINUTES THE PARALYSIS WILL LEAVE YOU! SO LONG, PALS--TILL WE MEET AGAIN!
GETTING AWAY! AND WE CAN'T PREVENT HIM--!
AFTERWARD, IN THE BATCAVE, THE BIZARRE INCIDENT PROVIDED THE DETECTIVE DUO WITH MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT...
THEN YOU BELIEVE THAT FENTON'S MYSTERIOUS POWER OVER US HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE X'S THAT APPEARED ON OUR FOREHEADS?
YES! IN FACT...
...I'M BEGINNING TO SEE HOW WE MAY BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM NEXT TIME WE MEET! IT'S A RISKY BUSINESS--BUT WHEN HAS THAT STOPPED US? LISTEN, HERE'S JUST WHAT WE'LL DO...
AS A DARING PLAN WAS FORMED...
OKAY, WE'RE READY FOR FENTON NOW, ROBIN! BUT WE CAN'T HUNT AIMLESSLY FOR HIM! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM--FAST! AND I HAVE AN IDEA--FENTON SPOKE OF LEAVING FOR A "PERFECT HIDEAWAY", REMEMBER?
SURE, BUT HOW DOES THAT HELP US?
MORE AND MORE REPORTS HAVE COME IN LATELY ABOUT CROOKS FINDING A MYSTERIOUS REFUGE SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM VILLAGE! NOW AS BRUCE WAYNE, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE VILLAGE...
...I'VE BEEN WANTING TO VISIT IT! WHY DON'T WE BOTH GO DOWN THERE NOW--IN OUR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES? WE CAN CARRY OUT MY INSPECTION MISSION--AND AT THE SAME TIME KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY CLUES THAT MIGHT LEAD US TO FENTON!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
WHICH EXPLAINS HOW BRUCE AND DICK CAME TO BE IN THE PICTURESQUE QUARTER OF THE CITY WHERE WE NOW REJOIN THEM.
I WONDER IF THIS CIRCLED X ON HER FIANCÉ'S MAP HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THOSE MARKS THAT APPEARED ON US--
OH--THERE GOES JIMMY NOW! HE DIDN'T SEE US! I'LL CALL HIM--!
NO, WAIT, MISS GREENE! IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU GO HOME NOW AND WAIT TILL YOU HEAR FROM US! DICK AND I ARE GOING TO TRY TO HELP YOU--IN OUR OWN WAY! PLEASE TRUST ME!
ALL R-RIGHT, MR. WAYNE! NOW THAT I'VE MET YOU, I DO TRUST YOU!
AFTER THE TEARFUL, WORRIED GIRL HAS GONE ON HER WAY--A RAPID SWITCH OF CLOTHES IS MADE IN A SHADOWY AREA...
SO THAT'S IT--WE'RE GOING TO TRAIL JIMMY PACKER--AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!
RIGHT, DICK--AND FIND OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO!

SHORTLY, A POWER-PACKED PAIR IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN...
HE'S TURNED-- GOING INTO THAT HOUSE!
JIMMY HAS BEEN HEADING INTO THE AREA CIRCLED WITH THE X ON HIS MAP!

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE LIVING HERE--
HE'S MAKING FOR A DOOR IN THE REAR! COME ON, ROBIN--!


INSIDE THE HOUSE--A DEAD END...
THE ROOM LEADS INTO A CLOSET! BUT WE SAW HIM GO IN HERE--!
WAIT! FINGER-MARKS IN THE DUST ON THIS SHELF--!?
THE GIMLET EYE OF THE DYNAMIC DETECTIVE PICKS OUT A SIGNIFICANT CLUE!

SOFTLY, THE DARING DUO PENETRATES THE DARK INTERIOR...
ROBIN, THIS COULD BE THE MYSTERIOUS ROUTE CRIMINALS TAKE TO DISAPPEAR IN THIS AREA!
DOES THAT MEAN JIMMY IS A CRIMINAL? I WAS HOPING IT WAS A MISTAKE--!
THE SHELF IS LOOSE--IT TILTS BACK-WARD--
A DOOR IS OPENING-IN BACK OF THE CLOSET, BATMAN!

MEANWHILE, IN A HEAVILY-GUARDED CHAMBER DEEP UNDER-GROUND...
SURE I'VE HEARD OF YOU, FENTON! YOU'RE A TOP HEISTER! BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT TO KICK IN WITH 50 PERCENT OF YOUR TAKE TO HIDE OUT HERE--LIKE EVERYONE ELSE! SUB-GOTHAM VILLAGE IS WORTH IT! LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND BEFORE YOU DECIDE--!
OKAY, SMILER--I ADMIT I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THIS PLACE!

SOME CROOKS ARE SO HOT THEY HAVE TO LIE LOW FOR WEEKS! DOWN HERE THEY DON'T GET BORED! WE HAVE OUR CLUB--WHERE THEY CAN RELAX, SEE?

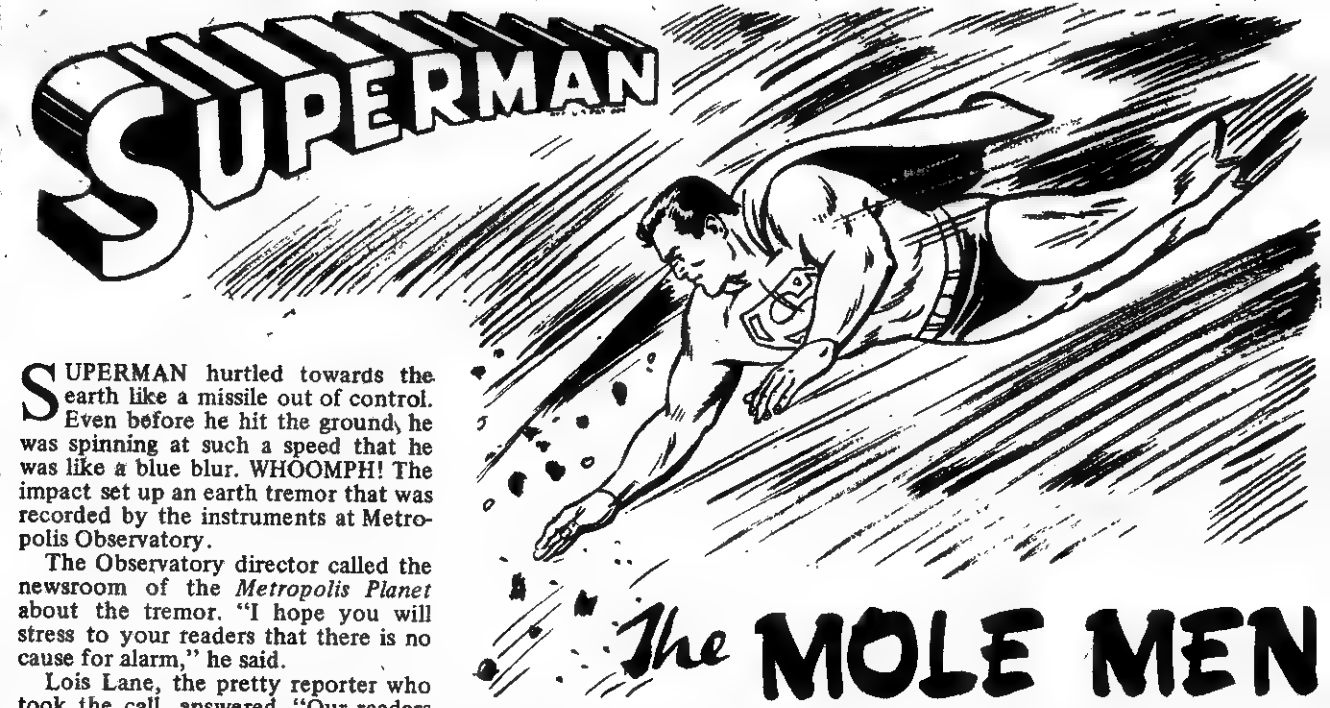
AND HERE'S OUR DE LUXE MOVIE THEATRE--SHOWING ONLY CRIME FILMS OF COURSE!
NOT BAD!

LET'S SAY YOU DECIDE TO TAKE YOUR LOOT AND HIGHTAIL IT FOR THE BORDER! WELL, YOU JUST SEE OUR SPECIAL TRAVEL BUREAU--AND GET EVERY DETAIL OF YOUR TRIP PLANNED FOR YOU! NOW WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER, FENTON?
LET US TAKE THE HEAT OFF!
WE KNOW A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN COOL OFF!
"HOT" PASSPORTS
JUST TELL US WHEN!

WELL, I STILL SAY YOU OUGHT TO REDUCE THE RATES FOR ME, SMILER! WHAT YOU DON'T REALIZE IS THIS--WITH ME DOWN HERE YOU'VE GOT INSURANCE AGAINST ANY ATTACK BY BATMAN AND ROBIN!
INSURANCE!? I DON'T GET YOU!

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THOSE TWO, SMILER--EASY AS PIE! I--eh?
BOSS--TROUBLE! BATMAN AND ROBIN--HEADING THIS WAY! THEY KNOCKED OUT TWO OF THE GUARDS ON DUTY--!
BATMAN AND ROBIN--DOWN HERE? STOP THEM! SPREAD THE ALARM!
HOLD IT, SMILER! YOU AIN'T GOT A THING TO WORRY ABOUT! JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS--!
BACK UP, ROBIN! GET OUT OF RANGE--!
IN MOMENTS, AS THE TWO CRUSADERS BURST INTO THE INNER SANCTUM OF THE SUBTERRANEAN LABYRINTH ...
FENTON!
UHH! HIS QUEER POWER OVER US IS WORKING AGAIN, BATMAN! I--I'M LOSING THE ABILITY TO MOVE--!
HA, HA! WHAT A LOCK I'VE GOT ON THESE TWO! MY GIMMICK NEVER FAILS
SO YOU FIGURED OUT MY POWER OVER YOU ONLY WORKS AT A SHORT DISTANCE, BATMAN? BUT YOUR MISTAKE WAS RETREATING INTO THIS CORNER! I'LL REALLY PARALYZE YOU NOW!
AND SOON, THE DUO IS SHOWN AS PRIZE EXHIBITS TO THE ADMIRING DENIZENS OF SUB-GOTHAM VILLAGE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW, SMILER? DO I GET SPECIAL TREATMENT AROUND HERE?
IT'S INCREDIBLE! HE'S GOT BATMAN AND ROBIN AS IF THEY'RE POSING FOR A PHOTOGRAPHER AND THEY CAN'T MOVE!
SMILER? I GUESS THAT'S THE BIG GUN HERE, ROBIN. THE ONE WE'VE BEEN HOPING TO REACH!
BUT I'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE, FENTON! WE'RE NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES! BOYS, OUT WITH THE HARDWARE--YOU'VE GOT A COUPLE OF SITTING-DUCK TARGETS! MOW 'EM DOWN!
WE'VE SEEN AND HEARD ENOUGH, ROBIN! TIME NOW--
--TO DROP OUR POSE AND HIT THIS UNDER-WORLD MOB!
WITH THE VERVE OF ACROBATS, THE FAMOUS PAIR MOVES TO THE ATTACK ...
THATAWAY, ROBIN! HE HAD A BEAD ON ME--!
SMILER AND TWO OF HIS HENCHMEN--STANDING LIKE A FIRING SQUAD!
WATCH OUT FOR BATMAN'S TRICKS! HE'S GETTING READY FOR A FLYING TACKLE! BUT HOT LEAD WILL STOP HIM SHORT!

BUT INSTEAD OF A GRIDIRON TACTIC THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER PULLS A TRICK FROM THE BASEBALL BOOKS...
...A FALL-AWAY SLIDE-- JUST THE THING WHEN YOU WANT TO SCORE... AND DON'T WANT TO BE TRIPPED BY YOUR OPPONENT!
FIRST TO REGAIN HIS FEET IS SWIFT-MOVING BATMAN, WHO GRABS FOR A CROOK'S GUN...
FENTON'S THE ONLY ONE THAT HASN'T TRIED TO USE A GUN! BUT THAT FITS IN WITH HIS CHARACTER--HE'S JUST NOT A KILLER--OR HE WOULD HAVE FINISHED OFF ROBIN AND ME THE FIRST TIME HE HAD US IN HIS POWER!
AND A FEW MOMENTS AFTER THE RAGING BATTLE BEGAN...
ALL OF YOU-- ON YOUR FEET!
ROBIN, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY OTHER CROOKS THAT MIGHT BE DOWN HERE!
WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE SHORTLY...
SO THIS IS THE BRAINS BEHIND SUB-GOTHAM VILLAGE, eh, BATMAN-- THIS ONE CALLED SMILER?
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM-- JUST A MINUTE, CAPTAIN!
AS A CUNNINGLY-CONTRIVED MASK IS REMOVED...
ROLAND MEACHAM-- CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE GOTHAM VILLAGE!?
I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGELY FAMILIAR ABOUT HIS MANNERISMS! THIS MASK MADE HIM SEEM TO SMILE ALL THE TIME!
THE DOUBLE-DEALER! HE WAS TRYING TO "SAVE" GOTHAM VILLAGE--ONLY TO PREVENT HIS UNDERGROUND SET-UP HERE FROM BEING DISCOVERED!
EXACTLY, CAPTAIN! HE OVERPLAYED HIS HAND-- AND LOST!
BEFORE YOU GO, FENTON... ROBIN AND I DEDUCED THAT YOU PLANTED THOSE MARKS ON OUR FOREHEADS WITH A BEAM OF RADIOACTIVE PHOSPHORUS! AND WE REALIZED AFTERWARD THAT THE INVISIBLE IMPRINT OF THAT BEAM ON US ENABLED YOU TO SEND OUT--
--AN ENERGY SIGNAL-- FROM THIS BOX IN YOUR POCKET-- WHICH ACTIVATED THE MARKS AND AFFECTED THE MOTOR AREAS OF OUR BRAINS-- SO THAT ANYTIME YOU WANTED, WITHIN A RANGE OF ABOUT TEN FEET, YOU COULD HALT US--STOP US FROM MOVING!
YEAH, BATMAN, BUT HOW--?
HOW DID WE OUTWIT YOU? WITH A LEAD LINING INSIDE MY MASK THAT PREVENTED YOUR ENERGY SIGNAL FROM REACHING ME!
AND A FLESH-COLOURED LEAD-LINED COVERING OVER MY FOREHEAD DID THE SAME FOR ME!
IN THE SUBTERRANEAN CITY ROUNDUP, A PRISONER OF THE GANG IS DISCOVERED.
JIMMY PACKER!?
THIS YOUNG MAN WAS MAKING A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH TRYING TO UNCOVER THE CROOK SET-UP HERE-- IN ORDER TO INFORM THE POLICE--WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED BY ONE OF SMILER'S GUARDS!
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED GOTHAM VILLAGE! I FIGURED IF I COULD HELP RID IT OF CRIMINALS, THE PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO RAZE IT WOULD LET IT UNTOUCHED!
I KNOW A CERTAIN GIRL WHO'S GOING TO BE HAPPY TO HEAR ABOUT THIS SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT!
AFTER EXPERT MEDICAL TREATMENT HAS ERASED THE RADIATION IMPRINTS ON THE FOREHEADS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN...
JIMMY, I'LL LIVE ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO LIVE!
I HAVE AN IDEA YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BE ATTENDING A WEDDING SOON, DICK!
Ahem! HAVE YOU FOLKS SEEN TODAY'S PAPERS?
OH, MR. WAYNE, THAT IS GOOD NEWS!
YOU TWO CAN SETTLE DOWN NOW, SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE HERE, YOU WON'T BE EVICTED! GOTHAM VILLAGE IS HERE TO STAY!
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSION DROPS FIGHT TO REBUILD GOTHAM VILLAGE!!
The End



The MOLE MEN

SUPERMAN hurtled towards the earth like a missile out of control. Even before he hit the ground, he was spinning at such a speed that he was like a blue blur. WHOOMPH! The impact set up an earth tremor that was recorded by the instruments at Metropolis Observatory.

The Observatory director called the newsroom of the *Metropolis Planet* about the tremor. "I hope you will stress to your readers that there is no cause for alarm," he said.

Lois Lane, the pretty reporter who took the call, answered, "Our readers can't be blamed for getting alarmed, Dr. Peel. After all, this follows on the heels of those mysterious earth shocks which shook Metropolis last week."

The director hummed and hawed. For the violent rumblings from below ground just outside the city seemed to have no logical explanation. Which was why Superman had decided to investigate—by burrowing his way below ground to the area of the shocks.

Cr-r-runch! His steel fists drove through a band of hard rock. Then shot out into air and he was standing upright in a tunnel.

He dusted earth from his blue uniform with its yellow belt and red "S" emblem, and looked around.

The tunnel was dark but Superman could see clearly with his night vision. "There are tunnels everywhere," he exclaimed. "And all newly made. But I never saw digging like this before!"

BLACK SNOUTS

A soft pad of feet made him whirl. The tunnel behind him was full of black shapes moving with menace towards him. Superman could make out hairy shoulders and the curve of a black, pointed snout. "Moles!" he exclaimed to himself. "But they walk like man."

Aloud he said, "I am Superman. Who are you?"

The dark shapes were all around him. He could see that the creatures had glittering, intelligent eyes and carried strange weapons in their spade-like hands.

"We are Mole Men!" The speaker was standing close to Superman. The black, pointed snout was thrust close to his face, and he knew that the creatures must be short-sighted. "I am Gleerro, leader of this mission," went on the creature. "We have come from our land in the centre of the Earth to capture and colonise your world."

The leader raised his weapon but one of the other Mole Men cried out, "Wait, Gleerro. This is no ordinary mortal. They cannot burrow with their hands as he does. We should make him our slave, to finish the heat ray machine."

Gleerro lowered his weapon, "You are right. Come, Superman. If you do well we shall spare your life."

They left the dark tunnel for others lit from an unseen light source. The extent of the Mole Men's diggings astonished Superman. There was a whole complex of highways and tunnels at different levels, linked by sloping feeder-roads. They entered a huge chamber, filled with a mass of machinery. In the centre was a glistening metal tube and above it hung a large reflector. Mole Men technicians scuttled around, working on the machinery and making adjustments.

HEAT PLOT

Gleerro pointed with his weapon. "This is the heat ray machine by which we shall conquer the world above," he said. "This metal tube extends deep into the core of the Earth, which is so hot that all is molten iron and nickel."

The spade-like claw lifted to point at the reflector. "When we are ready, we shall bring that intense heat up the tube and reflect it as a super heat ray towards Earth's poles. As the ice caps melt, flood waters will deluge the continents."

Superman took a deep breath. "And what if something should happen to spoil your plans, Gleerro?"

The other's black eyes glittered. "If we should fail, the rest of the Mole army is ready to attack on a full scale," he said.

There was a moment's silence broken only by the whirring of the machine before them. Superman's brain was whirling. "This is awful," he thought. "If I use my super-power to smash the machine it will only lead the world into a dreadful attack from the Mole army. And how can anyone fight unseen aggressors coming from below ground?"

Superman made up his mind. "What do you want me to do?" he said.

The Mole Men soon had him hard at work, carrying heavy loads of machine parts from the lower regions of the tunnel complex. There were two guards posted with heat ray guns, to keep watch upon the slave.

At last Gleerro ordered all to rest. Superman sat in the corridor outside the chamber, and pretended to doze. "I've got a plan that will hold up the work for a while," he pondered. "But I must create a diversion first."

Through the chamber entrance he could see a control board which was a mass of intricate wiring. "With my heat vision I can make quite a mess of that wiring!" he thought.

His eyes dilated to glowing orbs. Pouf! The control board exploded in a mass of flame. Superman's guards dropping their guns, rushed into the chamber to save their machine. The rest of the Mole Men followed. The Man of Steel crept away. His mighty fists punched a hole in the roof of the tunnel and he was boring his way to the surface.

Above ground, he took a deep breath of the clear air as he launched himself skywards. With his super-speed he quickly penetrated Earth's atmosphere and rocketed into Space. Flaming meteorites hurtled past him. "Just what I want!" he said aloud, and reaching out his mighty hands, he began to catch them.

With his arms piled with the iron fragments from Space, Superman made his descent to Earth. Placing the meteorites close beside the tunnel he had carved to the surface, he descended to the base of the Mole Men. They were still scurrying around, fighting the fire. But the guards had discovered his absence and were

searching the tunnels.

Superman returned to the surface, snatched up one of the meteorites and fashioned it into a bowl. This he filled with water at a nearby lake and once more made his way below ground, shouting, "I've brought water to quell the fire!"

He had the fire out in seconds. The Mole Men nodded their furry heads in approval. "You have done well," Gleerro praised.

Superman pointed to the damaged machinery inside the chamber. "You will need metal to repair that. I spotted some on the surface. I'll show you."

He led the way to where he had left the meteorites. Eagerly the Mole Men began to carry them to their base. From behind a rock, on the shores of the lake not 50 ft. away, Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen of the *Planet*, watched the scene with wide eyes. They had been sent to do an eye-witness story on the area in which the earth tremors had occurred.

Before Lois could stop him, the cub reporter had dashed into the open shouting, "Hey, Superman!"

In a few seconds the two reporters were surrounded by a ring of Mole Men. Jimmy stared in bewilderment. "Who are they, Superman?" he asked. "Are they hostile?"

Gleerro answered, "We have come to wipe out you Earthlings. Superman is helping us."

Lois turned a look of scorn upon her idol. "Traitor!" she said coldly.

Superman turned away with a heavy heart. "If only I could explain that I am playing for time until I can see a way to get rid of the Mole Men without bringing a full-scale attack upon the world," he thought.

The captives were led below ground. Two guards stood near them. Superman joined the Mole Men as they worked to repair their machine. With his bare hands, he fashioned the meteorites into the metal parts they needed. To himself he said, "This iron is so radio-active that it will upset the whole balance of the machine. And that will give me time to find a plan."

It was not long after the machine had been repaired that the Mole Men noticed something wrong. They

became agitated, scuttling around the chamber as they sought the reason for the flaw. Superman leapt towards his friends. "Quickly! I'll show you a way to the surface," he whispered.

They followed him out of the tunnel complex. Once in the open, Jimmy gasped, "Thanks, Superman! I knew you weren't really on their side."

JIMMY'S TIP

"I can explain later," said Superman quietly. "But why did you come to this area?"

Jimmy answered. "Perry White got an idea the earth tremors might have something to do with the old mine workings," he said. "They're about half a mile from here, but they run in this direction. They've been abandoned for many years."

Superman patted him on the shoulder. "Thanks," he said. "You've given me an idea. Now you'd better get back to the *Planet* office."

When he descended once more to the tunnel complex, Superman saw that the Mole Men were still engrossed in the problem of their machine. Hurling himself at the wall of the tunnel, he began to bore his way through the rock. His X-ray vision let him see where the abandoned mine workings were. As he broke through, he said with satisfaction, "Just as I thought! These old mine shafts are full of poisonous gases which have accumulated during the years."

WHITE MIST

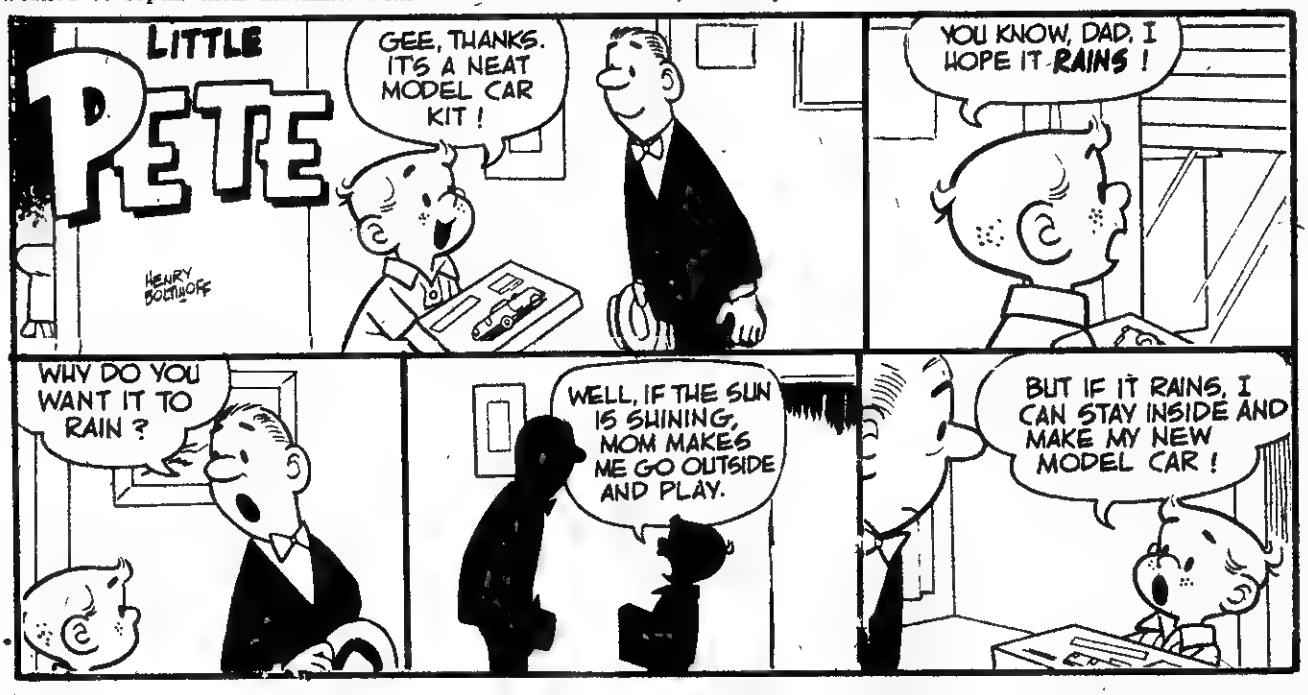
Superman returned through the tunnel he had made and used his super-breath to draw the poisonous gases after him.

Gleerro was the first to feel their effects. He staggered and would have falen but for Superman's supporting arm. "Why have I become so weak?" he choked. "What is this white mist?"

"Oh, that is the mist which penetrates our upper world," said Superman. "When you have colonised the Earth, you will find the mist comes often. We Earthlings breathe it deeply and feel strong enough to break rocks —like this!" Superman suited the action to the words by smashing a lump of rock with his hand.

Mole Men were staggering and falling all around him as they breathed the gas. Gleerro summoned all his strength and cried, "We must return to our inner world—quickly! We must never try to conquer Earth. These mists would kill us all."

Within a few minutes the tunnel complex was deserted. The Mole Men had fled downwards, back to their cities near the core of the Earth.



SUPERBOY

The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY

DUNCE

YOU YOUNG HOODLUM! IF ONLY I WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO PUNISH YOU AS YOU *DESERVE*!

R-RIP!

NOBODY'S THAT TOUGH, TEECH! NOW WATCH ME DEMONSTRATE THAT THE *WORLD* IS... *HA, HA!*... *FLAT!*

CRASH!

THUD

SOMETHING'S ROTTEN IN *SMALLVILLE*--AND IT GOES BY THE NAME OF *SUPERBOY!* YES, THE *BOY OF STEEL* IS A *DYNAMIC DELINQUENT* IN THIS STARTLING *IMAGINARY TALE!* YOU'LL SEE WHAT *MIGHT* HAVE HAPPENED IF THE *TERRIFIC TEEN* HAD BEGUN HIS CAREER AS A *VILLAINOUS VANDAL* INSTEAD OF A HELPFUL HERO! READ ON, AND VIEW THE MIGHTY MISCHIEF WROUGHT BY THAT POWER-PACKED PEST...

"The SCOUNDREL of STEEL!"

AS EVERYONE KNOWS, AFTER THE ORPHAN *SUPER-BABY* ARRIVED ON EARTH, HE WAS ADOPTED BY THE KENT FAMILY AND RAISED AS THEIR FOSTER-SON, CLARK...

CLARK, YOU'RE FLYING...AND SPINNING THE WINDMILL! THE NEIGHBOURS MUST *NEVER* SEE YOU USING YOUR SUPER-POWERS. I'LL EXPLAIN WHY WHEN YOU GROW UP!

WHEEE!

IN EVERYDAY LIFE, YOU'LL REMAIN SHY, NEAR-SIGHTED CLARK KENT. BUT IN YOUR OTHER IDENTITY, YOU'LL BE KNOWN AS *SUPERBOY*, THE ENEMY OF EVIL! PROMISE ME YOU'LL USE YOUR POWERS ONLY FOR GOOD!

I PROMISE!

SECONDS LATER, ON THE RADIO...

AND NOW, A NEWS BULLETIN! A SUDDEN STORM HAS WASHED OUT A BRIDGE ON THE SHORE RAILROAD, ENDANGERING THE MORNING EXPRESS!

THERE'S YOUR FIRST MISSION, *SUPERBOY!!* GO TO IT... AND GOOD LUCK!

SO BEGAN THE CAREER OF THE MIGHTY *BOY OF STEEL*...

IT'S A YOUNG BOY WITH... *SUPER-POWERS!* HE SAVED MY TRAIN FROM PLUNGING OVER THIS BROKEN BRIDGE!

UNLIKE ORDINARY CHILDREN, THE LAD FROM *KRYPTON* GREW TO MENTAL MATURITY AT AN EARLY AGE...

SON, TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR ARRIVAL ON EARTH. IT'S TIME TO ANNOUNCE YOUR PRESENCE TO THE WORLD!

TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES AND PUT ON THIS SUPER-COSTUME. WE MADE IT FROM THE BLANKETS WE FOUND IN THE ROCKET THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE!

AND, AS WE ALL KNOW, IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, **SUPERBOY** BECAME THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO...

HURRAH FOR **SUPERBOY!**

CANDY

ANNUAL SUPERBOY DAY PARADE

NOW, WAIT! LET'S BEGIN OUR STORY **AGAIN**... BUT THIS TIME, THE FATEFUL ANNIVERSARY OCCURS ON AN **IMAGINARY DAY** WHICH **NEVER** HAPPENED... BUT **MIGHT** HAVE...

IN EVERYDAY LIFE, YOU'LL REMAIN SHY, NEAR-SIGHTED CLARK KENT! BUT IN YOUR OTHER IDENTITY YOU'LL BE KNOWN AS **SUPERBOY**, THE ENEMY OF EVIL! PROMISE YOU'LL USE YOUR POWERS ONLY FOR GOOD!

I PROMISE!

AND **THIS** TIME, WHEN DAD KENT TURNS ON THE RADIO, FATE DECREES THAT HE TUNES IN ON A **DIFFERENT** WAVE-LENGTH!

FLASH! ASTRONOMERS REPORT THAT A STRANGE, INTERPLANETARY OBJECT IS APPROACHING EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE! THE NEWS HAS SPREAD PANIC THROUGH THE POPULATION!

THERE'S YOUR FIRST MISSION, **SUPERBOY!** GO TO IT... AND GOOD LUCK!

AS FRANTIC CITIZENS WATCH...

IT LOOKS LIKE A PLATE... A FLYING SAUCER*!

COULD BE CRITTERS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

EEEEEE! WE'RE BEING INVADED!

*TODAY WE CALL THEM **U.F.O.S.**.. UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS! — Editor

JUST THEN, A PICTURESQUE FIGURE STREAKS UP FROM EARTH...

LOOK! IS IT A BIRD? A PLANE? NO! IT'S A FLYING BOY! HE MUST HAVE SUPER-POWERS!

HMM! THAT "SPACE-CRAFT" SEEMS TO BE ONLY A STRANGELY-SHAPED CHUNK OF SPACE ROCK!

THIS SHOULD END THEIR PANIC!... UH-OH! THE ROCK WAS COVERED WITH METEORIC DUST! BENEATH THAT SPACE GRIME IT WAS ACTUALLY **RED!**

THAT YOUTH SAVED US BY HURLING THE FLYING SAUCER BACK INTO SPACE! WHO IS HE?

WHAT GOES ON HERE? MY BODY IS TINGLING ODDLY!* BUT HOW CAN ANYTHING AFFECT ME THAT WAY, WHEN I'M INVULNERABLE?

*IN THIS IMAGINARY STORY, THIS IS **SUPERBOY'S** VERY **FIRST** EXPOSURE TO RED KRYPTONITE AND ITS FANTASTIC UNPREDICTIBLE EFFECTS — WHICH OFTEN HAVE A **DELAYED REACTION!** — Ed.

AS **SUPERBOY** RETURNS HOME...

OH, SON, WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU! WE WATCHED EVERY SECOND OF YOUR FIRST FEAT AS **SUPERBOY!**

SAVE THE BOUQUETS FOR LATER, MARTHA! THERE'S ANOTHER EMERGENCY BULLETIN ON THE AIR!

THIS IS YOUR ROVING REPORTER AT THE SCENE OF THE PRISON BREAK ON **ALCATRAZ ISLAND** IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY! THE CONVICTS HAVE SEIZED THE PRISON ARSENAL, AND HAVE DRIVEN THE GUARDS OFF THE ISLAND...

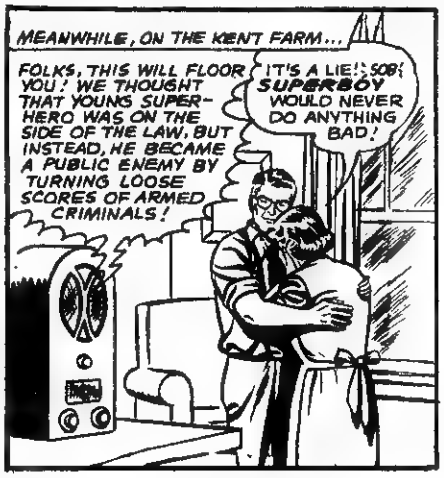
...BUT BECAUSE OF THE SWIFT CURRENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY, THE PRISONERS ARE PREVENTED FROM ESCAPING THE ISOLATED FEDERAL PRISON KNOWN AS "THE ROCK"!
BAM!

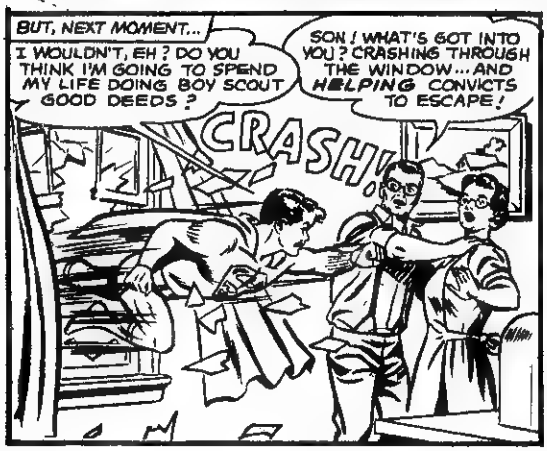
AT INCREDIBLE VELOCITY, SUPERBOY STREAKS TO THE COAST...
HOLD, EVERYTHING; RADIO LISTENERS! HERE COMES THAT AMAZING SUPER-LAD WHO JUST SAVED EARTH FROM A FLYING SAUCER ATTACK! HE'LL ROUND UP THOSE ARMED CONVICTS!

SUPER-YOUTH! YOU'RE IN THE NICK OF TIME! QUICK, LEND US A HAND AND SQUELCH THIS PRISON BREAK!
I'LL LEND A HAND, ALL RIGHT!

BUT TO THE JOY OF THE CONVICTS...
HEY! WHO'S THE FLYING KID? MAN...WHAT MUSCLES! HE'S MOVING THE ISLAND!
HE'S LIVING DYNAMITE! HE'S PUSHING "THE ROCK" ACROSS FRISCO BAY LIKE IT WAS A RAFT. HE'S ON OUR SIDE!

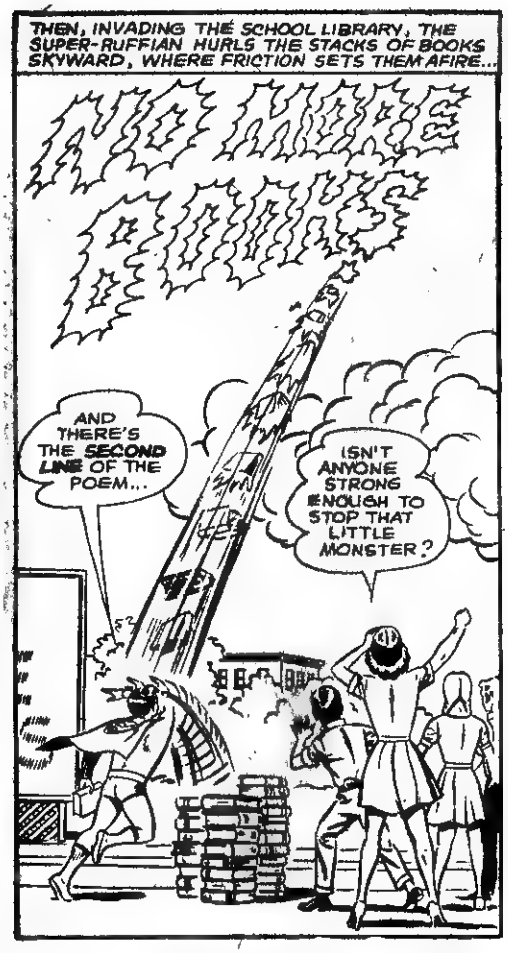
AFTER AN INCREDIBLE "VOYAGE" THROUGH THE RIP-TIDES...
THAT SUPERBOY IS A FLYING FINK! HE HELPED THE WORST KILLERS IN THE COUNTRY TO ESCAPE BY SHOVING ALCATRAZ ISLAND TO THE MAINLAND!
SO THOSE COPS THOUGHT I'D HELP THEM! HA, HA! I ENJOYED THAT DOUBLECROSS TO THE HILT!


MEANWHILE, ON THE KENT FARM...
FOLKS, THIS WILL FLOOR YOU! WE THOUGHT THAT YOUNG SUPER-HERO WAS ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW, BUT INSTEAD, HE BECAME A PUBLIC ENEMY BY TURNING LOOSE SCORES OF ARMED CRIMINALS!
IT'S A LIE! SOB! SUPERBOY WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING BAD!

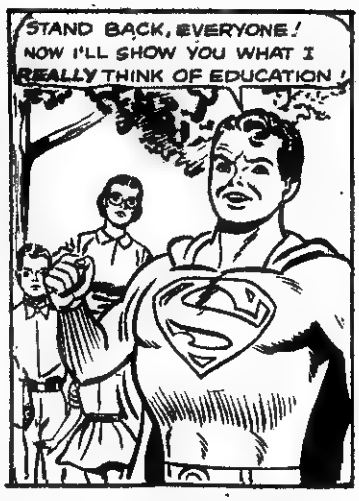

BUT, NEXT MOMENT...
I WOULDN'T, EH? DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO SPEND MY LIFE DOING BOY SCOUT GOOD DEEDS?
SON! WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU? CRASHING THROUGH THE WINDOW...AND HELPING CONVICTS TO ESCAPE!
CRASH!

STOP BUGGING ME, YOU TWO! I'M NOT APOLOGIZING FOR ANYTHING! NOW WHERE'S MY SUPPER? I WANT FOOD... OR ELSE!
J-JUST STEP INTO THE KITCHEN, SON! EVERYTHING'S READY!
HE'S NOT ACTING NORMAL. I'D BETTER HUMOUR HIM UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG!
SLAM!

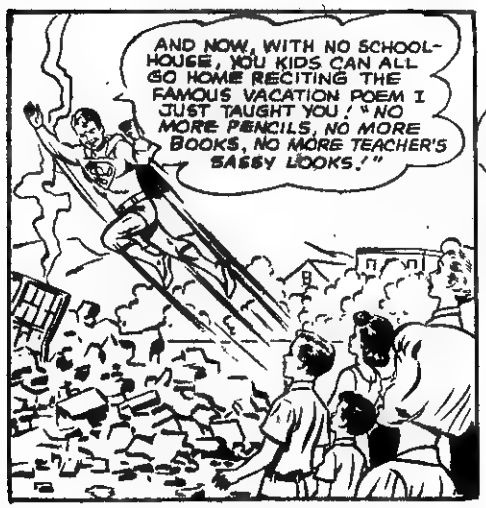
POOR KENTS! THEY DO NOT REALIZE THAT THE DELAYED REACTION OF THE RED K HAS ALREADY AFFECTED SUPERBOY, WARPING HIS CHARACTER SO THAT HE IS NOW DISRESPECTFUL OF ALL AUTHORITY, INCLUDING HIS PARENTS!
BAH! THE VEGETABLES ARE TASTELESS! THE ROAST IS BURNED! I'M SICK OF THE MISERABLE FOOD IN THIS DUMP!
BUT, SON! YOU ALWAYS ENJOYED MY COOKING!
HERE'S WHAT I THINK OF YOUR COOKING!
THAT DOES IT! YOU YOUNG PUP! YOU MAY BE SUPERBOY, BUT YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS TANTRUM IN THE WOODSHED!
BUT SPANKING SUPERBOY IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE...
NICE TRY, DAD! KEEP SWINGING!
Y!!! I WAS SO ANGRY, I FORGOT ABOUT HIS INVULNERABLE BODY!
WAK
THAT NIGHT...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO DEFIANT. HE EVEN INSISTED ON GOING TO SLEEP WITHOUT TAKING OFF HIS COSTUME!
SIGH SHOW INNOCENT HE LOOKS... PERHAPS WE'LL WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND FIND IT'S ALL A BAD DREAM!
NEXT DAY, HOWEVER...
WAIT, SON! AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHANGE TO YOUR CLARK KENT CLOTHES AND GO TO SCHOOL?
SCHOOL? YOU'RE KIDDING! WITH MY SUPER-BRAIN, WHO NEEDS IT?
HE'S STILL IN THAT ORNERY MOOD. MAYBE HE'LL STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, IF I KEEP HIM HERE!
SUPERBOY! HELP ME CLEAR THE ROCKS OUT OF THIS FIELD!
ROCKS? FORGET IT! I'VE JUST CHANGED MY MIND! I'M GOING TO SCHOOL AFTER ALL... AS SUPERBOY!
GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S THAT FLYING YOUTH EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT!
IT'S SUPERBOY!
OKAY, TEECH! THEY SAY SCHOOL IS THE PLACE TO LEARN, SO TEACH ME SOMETHING!
Y...YES! I WAS ABOUT TO SHOW THE CHILDREN SOME MOVIES ON OLD LEGENDS. Y-YOU CAN WATCH, TOO!
THIS IS A STORY OF KING ARTHUR, WHO BECAME RULER OF ENGLAND BECAUSE HE SUCCEEDED IN DRAWING THE MAGIC SWORD, EXCALIBUR, OUT OF A ROCK!
BAH! I COULD DO THAT WITH MY PINKY!
SCHOOL SUPPLIES
CRAYONS
INK
CRAYONS
PENCILS
PENCILS
PENCILS
PEN
PENCILS
PEN
YOU CALL THAT LEARNING? I'D BETTER TAKE OVER THE CLASS! I'M GOING TO USE THESE PENCILS TO TEACH EVERYONE SOME POETRY!
USING HIS SUPER-AIM, THE SCOUNDREL OF STEEL HURLS THE PENCILS AT AN UNUSED ADVERTISING SIGN NEARBY...
NO MORE PENCILS
THERE'S THE FIRST LINE OF THE POEM... RIGHT ON TARGET!


THEN, INVADING THE SCHOOL LIBRARY, THE SUPER-RUFFIAN HURLS THE STACKS OF BOOKS SKYWARD, WHERE FRICTION SETS THEM AFIRE...
AND THERE'S THE SECOND LINE OF THE POEM...
ISN'T ANYONE STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THAT LITTLE MONSTER?

OKAY, NOW TO FINISH MY POEM! EVERYBODY OUT OF THE SCHOOL QUICK! DON'T YOU HEAR THE BELL RINGING?
BONG!
BONG
WE'D BETTER OBEY HIM, CHILDREN NO TELLING WHAT THAT DESTRUCTIVE DEMON WILL DO NEXT!


STAND BACK, EVERYONE! NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I REALLY THINK OF EDUCATION!

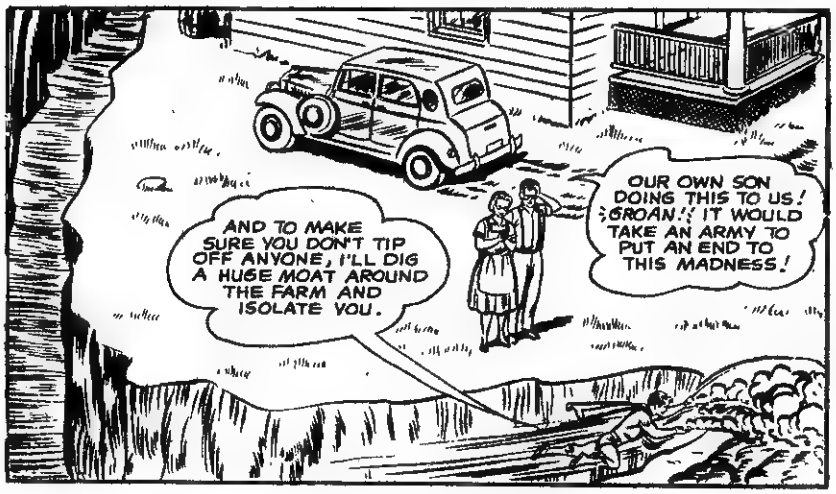
THEN, WITH A MIGHTY BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH...
GOSH! HE'S LIKE A BIG, BAD SUPER-WOLF! HE HUFFED AND PUFFED AND BLEW THE SCHOOL-HOUSE DOWN!
WHOOSH!

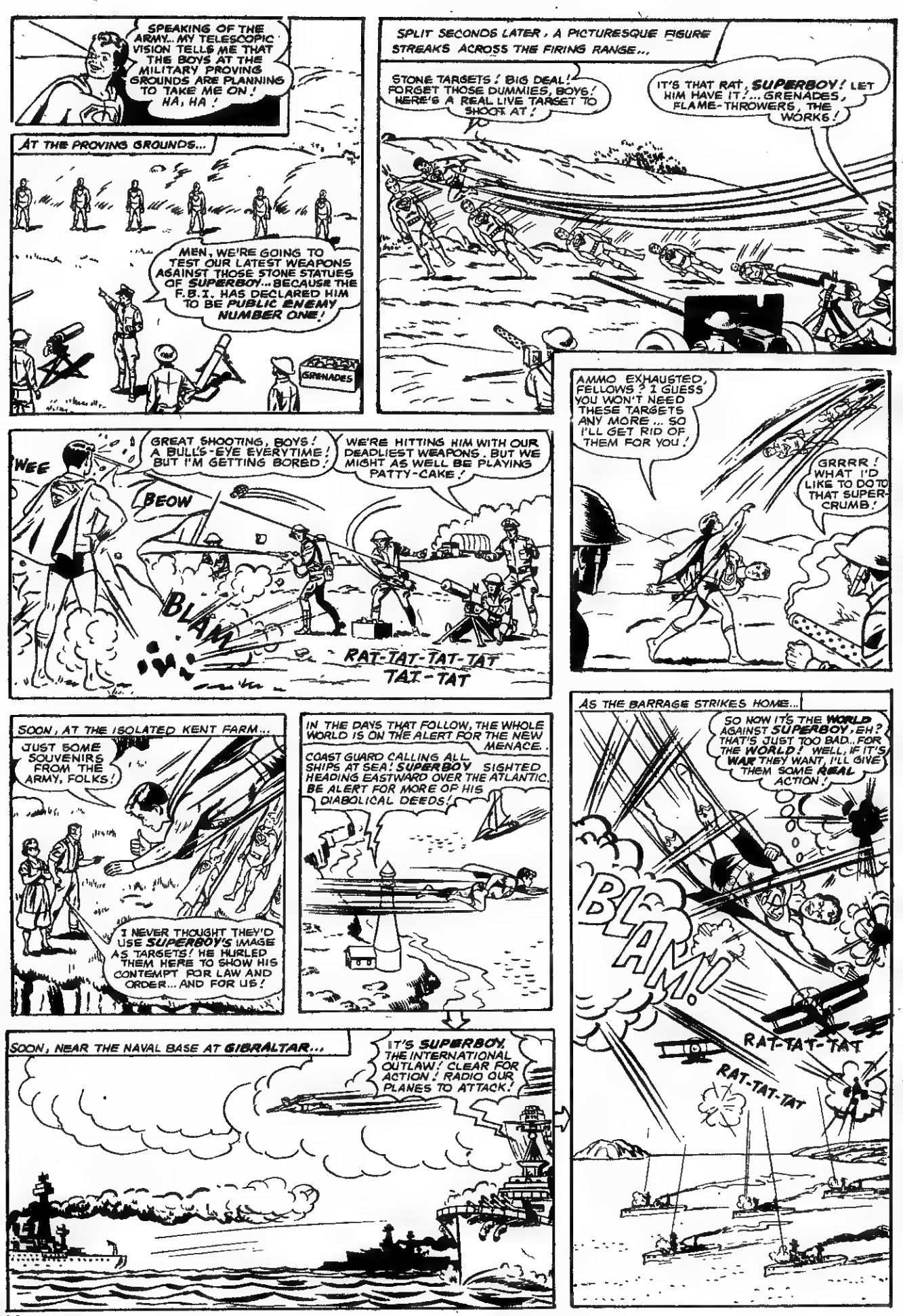

AND NOW, WITH NO SCHOOL-HOUSE, YOU KIDS CAN ALL GO HOME RECITING THE FAMOUS VACATION POEM I JUST TAUGHT YOU! "NO MORE PENCILS, NO MORE BOOKS, NO MORE TEACHER'S SASSY LOOKS!"

WOW! A VACATION! HURRAY FOR SUPERBOY!
OUTRAGEOUS! THAT YOUNG SUPER-SCOUNDREL IS A HORRIBLE EXAMPLE FOR THE CHILDREN!

NEXT DAY, AS PA KENT RETURNS FROM TOWN...
SUPERBOY! I JUST HEARD OF YOUR VICIOUS VANDALISM AT SCHOOL. UNLESS YOU STOP ACTING THIS WAY, I'LL...
GET OFF MY BACK! YOU'RE NOT MY REAL FATHER! YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

ENOUGH OF YOUR INSOLENCE! I'M GOING TO CALL THE AUTHORITIES, AND...
SAVE YOUR BREATH! THE PHONE'S OUT OF ORDER!
R-RIP!


AND TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T TIP OFF ANYONE, I'LL DIG A HUGE MOAT AROUND THE FARM AND ISOLATE YOU.
OUR OWN SON DOING THIS TO US! GROAN! IT WOULD TAKE AN ARMY TO PUT AN END TO THIS MADNESS!


SPEAKING OF THE ARMY... MY TELESCOPIC VISION TELLS ME THAT THE BOYS AT THE MILITARY PROVING GROUNDS ARE PLANNING TO TAKE ME ON! HA, HA!
AT THE PROVING GROUNDS...
MEN, WE'RE GOING TO TEST OUR LATEST WEAPONS AGAINST THOSE STONE STATUES OF SUPERBOY... BECAUSE THE F.B.I. HAS DECLARED HIM TO BE PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE!
GRENADES
SPLIT SECONDS LATER, A PICTURESQUE FIGURE STREAKS ACROSS THE FIRING RANGE...
STONE TARGETS! BIG DEAL! FORGET THOSE DUMMIES, BOYS! HERE'S A REAL LIVE TARGET TO SHOOT AT!
IT'S THAT RAT, SUPERBOY! LET HIM HAVE IT!... GRENADES, FLAME-THROWERS, THE WORKS!
WEE
GREAT SHOOTING, BOYS! A BULL'S-EYE EVERYTIME! BUT I'M GETTING BORED!
WE'RE HITTING HIM WITH OUR DEADLIEST WEAPONS. BUT WE MIGHT AS WELL BE PLAYING PATTY-CAKE!
BEOW
BLAM
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
TAT-TAT
AMMO EXHAUSTED, FELLOWS? I GUESS YOU WON'T NEED THESE TARGETS ANY MORE... SO I'LL GET RID OF THEM FOR YOU!
GRRRR! WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO TO THAT SUPER-CRUMB!
SOON, AT THE ISOLATED KENT FARM...
JUST SOME SOUVENIRS FROM THE ARMY, FOLKS!
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D USE SUPERBOY'S IMAGE AS TARGETS! HE HURLED THEM HERE TO SHOW HIS CONTEMPT FOR LAW AND ORDER... AND FOR US!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE WHOLE WORLD IS ON THE ALERT FOR THE NEW MENACE.
COAST GUARD CALLING ALL SHIPS AT SEA! SUPERBOY SIGHTED HEADING EASTWARD OVER THE ATLANTIC. BE ALERT FOR MORE OF HIS DIABOLICAL DEEDS!
SOON, NEAR THE NAVAL BASE AT GIBRALTAR...
IT'S SUPERBOY, THE INTERNATIONAL OUTLAW! CLEAR FOR ACTION! RADIO OUR PLANES TO ATTACK!
AS THE BARRAGE STRIKES HOME...
SO NOW IT'S THE WORLD AGAINST SUPERBOY, EH? THAT'S JUST TOO BAD.. FOR THE WORLD! WELL, IF IT'S WAR THEY WANT, I'LL GIVE THEM SOME REAL ACTION!
BLAM!
RAT-TAT-TAT
RAT-TAT-TAT

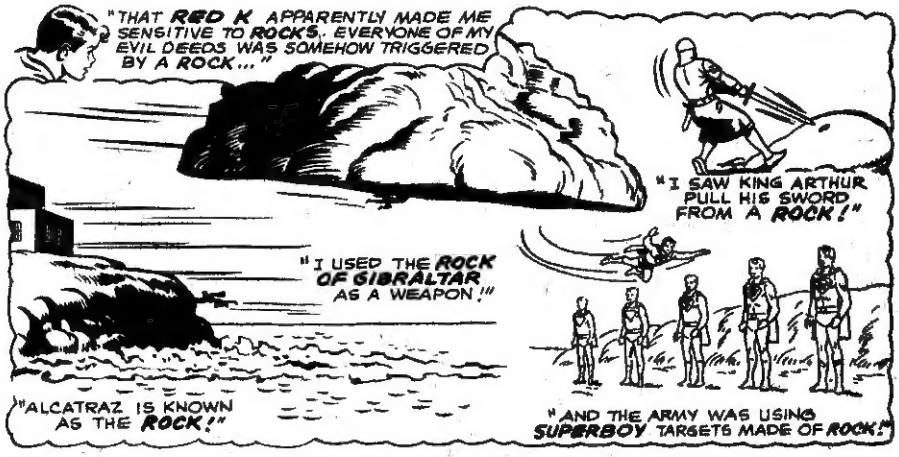
CRUNCH!
LET'S SEE NOW... THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR IS JUST THE WEAPON I NEED!
BLASTING LOOSE THE MOUNTAINOUS CRAG, SUPERBOY ATTACKS THE FLEET...
A STONE THIS SIZE OUGHT TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH!
IT DOES!
SUPERBOY STARTED A TIDAL WAVE! WE'LL ALL BE DROWNED!
SPLASH
BUT AS THE MIGHTY FLOOD RECEDES,
THANK GOODNESS THE STRAITS ARE SO NARROW HERE! WE WERE ONLY SWEPT ASHORE! BUT SUPERBOY MADE US LOOK LIKE FOOLS BY STRANDING US HIGH AND DRY!
HOW MUCH MORE DESTRUCTION WILL THAT YOUNG FLYING FIEND CAUSE BEFORE WE STOP HIM?
A GOOD QUESTION! BUT AS SUPERBOY WINGS HOMEWARD, SUDDENLY...
UHHH! WHERE AM I? WHY AM I FLYING OVER THE OCEAN? I CAN'T RECALL...
UNKNOWN TO SUPERBOY, THE EFFECTS OF THE RED K HAVE WORN OFF, LEAVING HIM WITH NO MEMORY OF THE EVENTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE WHILE UNDER ITS INFLUENCE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I SHOULD BE AT SCHOOL IN SMALLVILLE, AS CLARK KENT!
SWITCHING TO CLARK, HE REPORTS FOR CLASSES.
WHAT'S THIS? HOW DID THE SCHOOL GET WRECKED? I'D BETTER JOIN THE OTHERS IN THAT TEMPORARY OUTDOOR CLASSROOM.
CLARK DOESN'T REALIZE THE WRECKAGE IS HIS OWN HANDIWORK.
BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR FARM AND COME TO THE F.B.I. WITH YOUR INFORMATION, MR. KENT!
LUCKILY, AN UNDERGROUND STREAM FILLED THE MOAT SUPERBOY DUG...I HAD TO DECIDE BETWEEN MY LOVE FOR MY SON AND MY DUTY TO MANKIND!
GENTLEMEN, IT'S TIME THE WORLD KNEW THE TRUTH! SUPERBOY IS REALLY MY ADOPTED SON, CLARK KENT!
DAD! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! YOU'RE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
YOU MEAN THAT NAMBY-PAMBY CLARK KENT IS THE BOY OF STEEL HA, HA, HA!
HA! HA! HA!
THAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING I EVER HEARD OF! TELL US ANOTHER ONE!
HO! HO! HO!

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER! SEE? HE IS THE CULPRIT EVERYONE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR...SUPERBOY!
DAD! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME!
HOLY SMOKE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I COULD EASILY ESCAPE, BUT I'M NO LAW-BREAKER! PUT THE CUFFS ON ME AND I'LL GO QUIETLY! BUT FIRST TELL ME WHY I'M BEING ARRESTED!
OH, PLAYING DUMB, ARE YOU? I'LL GIVE YOU A RUNDOWN TO JOG YOUR MEMORY!

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT ENDS HIS STORY...
I SEE! MY EVIL DEEDS ALL STARTED AFTER I TOUCHED THAT STRANGE ROCK WHICH EVERYONE THOUGHT WAS A FLYING SAUCER!
THAT WEIRD, TINGLING SENSATION! WHAT CAUSED IT?

THAT SPACE ROCK MUST HAVE BEEN SOME STRANGE VARIETY OF KRYPTONITE WHICH AFFECTED ME FANTASTICALLY, BUT THE EFFECT HAS WORN OFF AND I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT I DID!

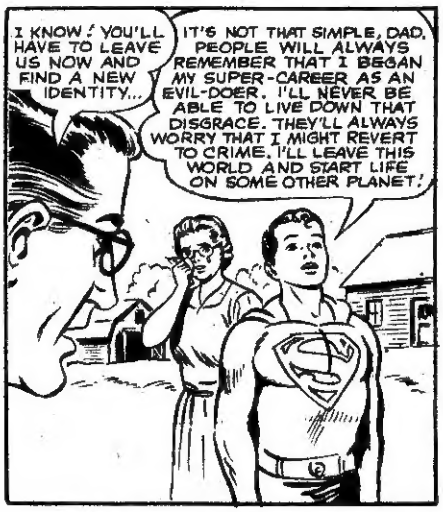

"THAT RED K APPARENTLY MADE ME SENSITIVE TO ROCKS. EVERYONE OF MY EVIL DEEDS WAS SOMEHOW TRIGGERED BY A ROCK..."
"I SAW KING ARTHUR PULL HIS SWORD FROM A ROCK!"
"I USED THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR AS A WEAPON!"
"ALCATRAZ IS KNOWN AS THE ROCK!"
"AND THE ARMY WAS USING SUPERBOY TARGETS MADE OF ROCK!"

IT ALL ADDS UP! THE RED K CAUSED ME TO USE MY POWERS FOR EVIL! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! PLEASE LET ME REPAIR THE DAMAGE I'VE DONE!
OKAY! WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE! WE COULDN'T HOLD YOU AGAINST YOUR WILL, ANYHOW!

I'LL START BY REBUILDING THE SCHOOL.
INCREDIBLE! HE'S DOING IT AT SUPER-SPEED... AND GIVING US A FAR MORE MODERN BUILDING!

THE BOY BLOCKBUSTER NEXT PUTS ALCATRAZ AND GIBRALTAR BACK IN PLACE! THEN LATER, BACK AT THE KENT FARM, AFTER THE MOAT HAS BEEN REFILLED...
SON, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR MIND... BUT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO HELP, I BETRAYED YOUR TRUST AND EXPOSED YOUR IDENTITY!
YOU'RE FORGIVEN, DAD! BUT THE DAMAGE CAN NEVER BE REPAIRED!

CLARK...MY SON! SOB! EVEN THOUGH I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!
GOODBYE, MOM!


I KNOW! YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE US NOW AND FIND A NEW IDENTITY...
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, DAD. PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT I BEGAN MY SUPER-CAREER AS AN EVIL-DOER. I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE DOWN THAT DISGRACE. THEY'LL ALWAYS WORRY THAT I MIGHT REVERT TO CRIME. I'LL LEAVE THIS WORLD AND START LIFE ON SOME OTHER PLANET!

THERE GOES SUPERBOY! THE RADIO SAYS HE'S LEAVING EARTH FOREVER! IT'S THE GREATEST LOSS OUR WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!
BUT, FORTUNATELY, THIS IMAGINARY STORY NEVER REALLY HAPPENED... AND THE WORLD NEVER SUSTAINED THAT TERRIBLE LOSS!
THE END

JOE'S SAD FAREWELL

Cup Finals of the 'Sixties

1960-1	*Tottenham H'spur*	*2*
	Leicester City	*0*
1961-2	*Tottenham H'spur*	*3*
	Burnley	*1*
1962-3	*Manchester United*	*3*
	Leicester City	*1*
1963-4	*West Ham United*	*3*
	Preston North End	*2*
1964-5	*Liverpool*	*2*
	Leeds United	*1*
1965-6	*Everton*	*3*
	Sheffield Wed'y	*2*
1966-7	*Tottenham H'spur*	*2*
	Chelsea	*1*
1967-8	*W. Bromwich Albion*	*1*
	Everton	*0*
1968-9	*Manchester City*	*1*
	Leicester City	*0*

IT was the sort of incident that happens often in Soccer. A loose ball around the half-way line and players of both teams bore down on it. Arsenal captain Joe Mercer beat Liverpool right-winger Brian Jackson to it by a toe-cap with the intention of playing it back to centre-half Bill Dickson.

And then Arsenal full-back Joe Wade, unable to stop himself, hit the ball. Joe crashed, his leg bent.

It was still an ordinary enough incident on that April day at Highbury. But Joe did not move. And then the crowd sensed that this was no ordinary collision. Joe was 39-years -old, nearing retirement after 22 years in League football with Everton and Arsenal. His celebrated bow legs had suffered serious injury before.

Arsenal trainer Billy Milne and Liverpool trainer Albert Shelley raced on to the field together. A swift examination and they knew that Joe's left leg was badly broken. They called for a stretcher and they put the leg in splints and Joe was borne from the field with blankets tucked to his chin.

The crowd of 33,000 was silent. It was like a funeral procession. No one doubted that the man who had captained Arsenal and England, played in 32 internationals, won three League championship medals and a Cup winners' medal had played his last match.

But then they saw the blankets twitch and, just before the cortege of ambulance men reached the tunnel, the blanket moved and an arm came out and Joe waved—a final salute. And then the crowd stood and Joe received a last ovation such as Highbury has known seldom in all its days of glory.

It was the end of Joe's great career as a player. He became manager of Aston Villa but illness cost him his job.

Then four years ago he became manager of Manchester City, and this year Joe saw his team win the Cup Final at Wembley. And if any youngster wonders why Joe Mercer wept when his boys went up for their medals, he was weeping with pride and joy. That day at Highbury in 1954 ended his playing career, but Joe is still very much a top man in Soccer.

SPORTFACTS

Suleiman Nashnush, a Libyan basketball player, was 8 ft. 1½ in. tall.

A tug of war between two companies of the Derbyshire Regiment in 1889 lasted two hours, 41 minutes.

Members of Parliament have their own small-bore rifle range at Westminster.

The Olympic Games symbol of five interlocking circles represents the five continents; it was adopted in 1920.

Max Baer knocked down Primo Carnera 12 times in 11 rounds in a heavyweight title fight in 1934 before the referee stopped the fight.

In a schools cricket match in New Zealand one side was dismissed for no runs in 18 balls.

A Frenchman spent 214 hours on a tightrope 1,500 ft. above a river in 1966.

Early ice skates (before the 17th century) were made of bone.

An ice hockey puck was found to travel at 118 mph when struck by Canadian Bobby Hull.

Trampolining was developed as a sport by American George Nissen; the first championships were held in 1958.

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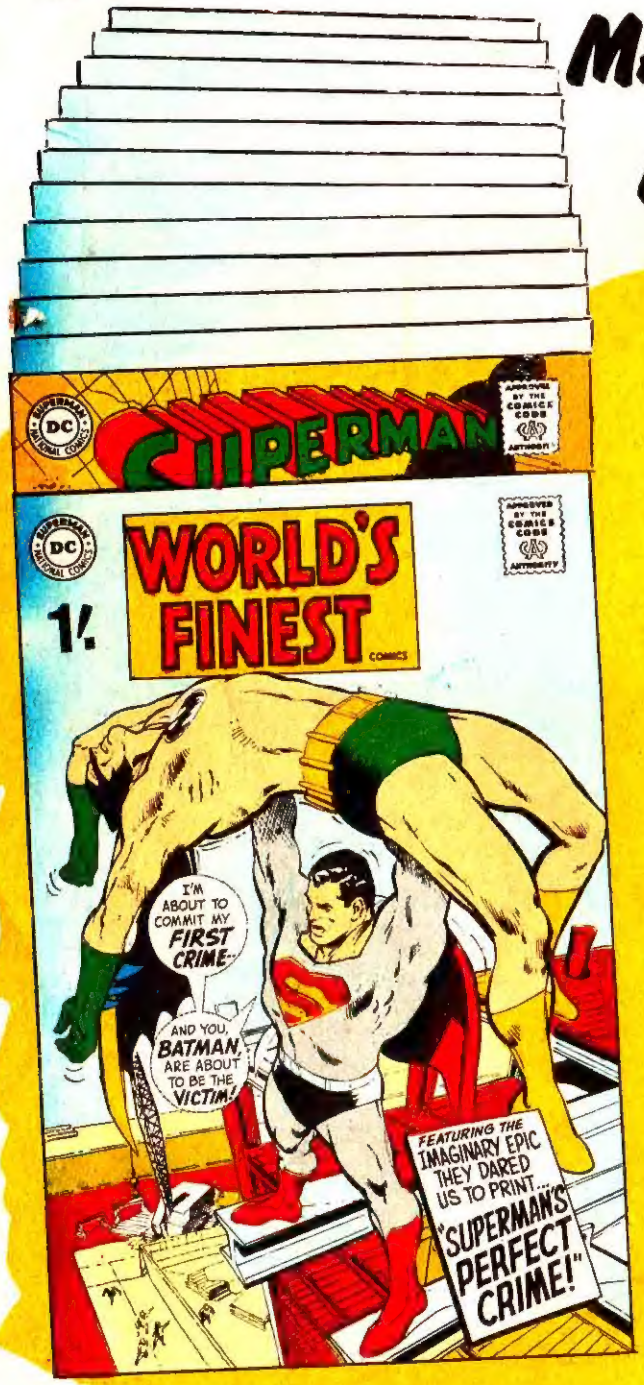

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